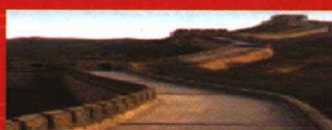


# MAD SPOKEN ENGLISH



## 麦德 英语口语

[美] 麦德 (Michael A. DeRabo) 编



北京大学出版社  
PEKING UNIVERSITY PRESS

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## FOREWORD

This book is divided into thirty units. Each unit includes the following sections: Discussion topic, American style, Get wise with proverbs, American slang, Pronunciation and Homework. The topics, proverbs and slang are all covered in an alphabetical way for easy reference.

This book is the result of the author's first-hand experience in teaching English to Chinese students for so many years. The author has taught students from all backgrounds including university students, high-school students and professionals. The book includes all the essentials to improve the student's English speaking ability.

As mentioned earlier, the book is divided into thirty units. Each unit includes the following sections.

Discussion topic. This key section allows the student to analyze some very popular topics in depth. Key words and focus questions are provided to help and guide the student in the discussion.

American style. This section introduces American culture as it relates to the discussion topic in the previous section. This information aims to satisfy the curiosity of the student about life in America.

Get wise with proverbs. This section provides the student with another way to get another feel for the American culture. While proverbs are international in nature and apply to human experience in general, many proverbs in this section provide a window into understanding American and Western culture.

American slang. Very few books introduce slang to Chinese students. Slang is very important if a Chinese student is to fully master English. Slang is the way people talk in everyday life. The slang expressions in this section allow the student to be better equipped when it comes to communicating with Americans.

Pronunciation. This section addresses the particular needs of the Chinese student as they relate to speaking English. Specific examples are provided to allow the student to practice.

Homework. This section includes exercises about vocabulary, proverbs, slang, and composition. This section will make the student review the contents of the unit, thus reinforcing the learning process.

## WHY IS THIS BOOK SO UNIQUE?

What makes this book so unique is the fact that it integrates the material that students are very interested in, specifically ways to allow them to communicate about the most popular topics and to understand the daily language used by native speakers. In order to accomplish this task, this book includes the following sections: Topic discussion, American Style, Proverbs, American Slang, Pronunciation and Homework.

**Topic Discussion** is the fun and flexible way to allow students to become more fluent in English. In order to be proficient in English, the students are expected to be able to smoothly communicate in a variety of situations. This book facilitates this task by introducing thirty popular topics that everyone needs to be able to talk about. A key attribute of this book is that each topic is introduced with a long list of keywords needed to discuss the topic. In addition, in order to guide and stimulate the student discussion, a list of ten questions is provided with each topic.

**American Style** is an up-to-date, insightful and comprehensive view of American culture. For each topic discussed in the previous section, the American perspective is presented. Students get to know about such popular American culture aspects as sports, music, food, love and so on.

**Proverbs** act as a window into a language. Learning them allows the student to gain a wider appreciation of American culture. The most common proverbs are introduced in this book. In order to engage the student, the proverbs are presented as a multiple-choice cloze, thus requiring the student to choose the correct answer from a list of related choices. The answers are included in the Appendix at the back of the book.

**Slang** is the way people talk in everyday life. Slang is what students hear when they watch a movie or a TV show. Slang is what students see when they enter an online English chat room. Slang is what students hear when they see American expatriates or tourists talking in China. Slang is what students will hear when they go to the United States. Unfortunately, the great majority of English textbooks exclusively concentrate on introducing formal English, and thus, the students are sometimes left without a clue when communicating with Americans. This book introduces the most common slang expressions as used in everyday life situations. In order to stimulate the student's thinking and increase word retention, the meaning of the slang expressions is given in a multiple-choice format. The answers are included in the Appendix at the back of the book.

**Pronunciation** is the key to letting others understand you. While all foreign students share some pronunciation difficulties, Chinese students have some specific pronunciation problems. This book introduces thirty pronunciation hints to help the Chinese student tackle these mistakes.

**Homework** is used to enhance and reinforce the student's grasp of topic vocabulary, proverbs and slang. The answers are included in the Appendix at the back of the book.

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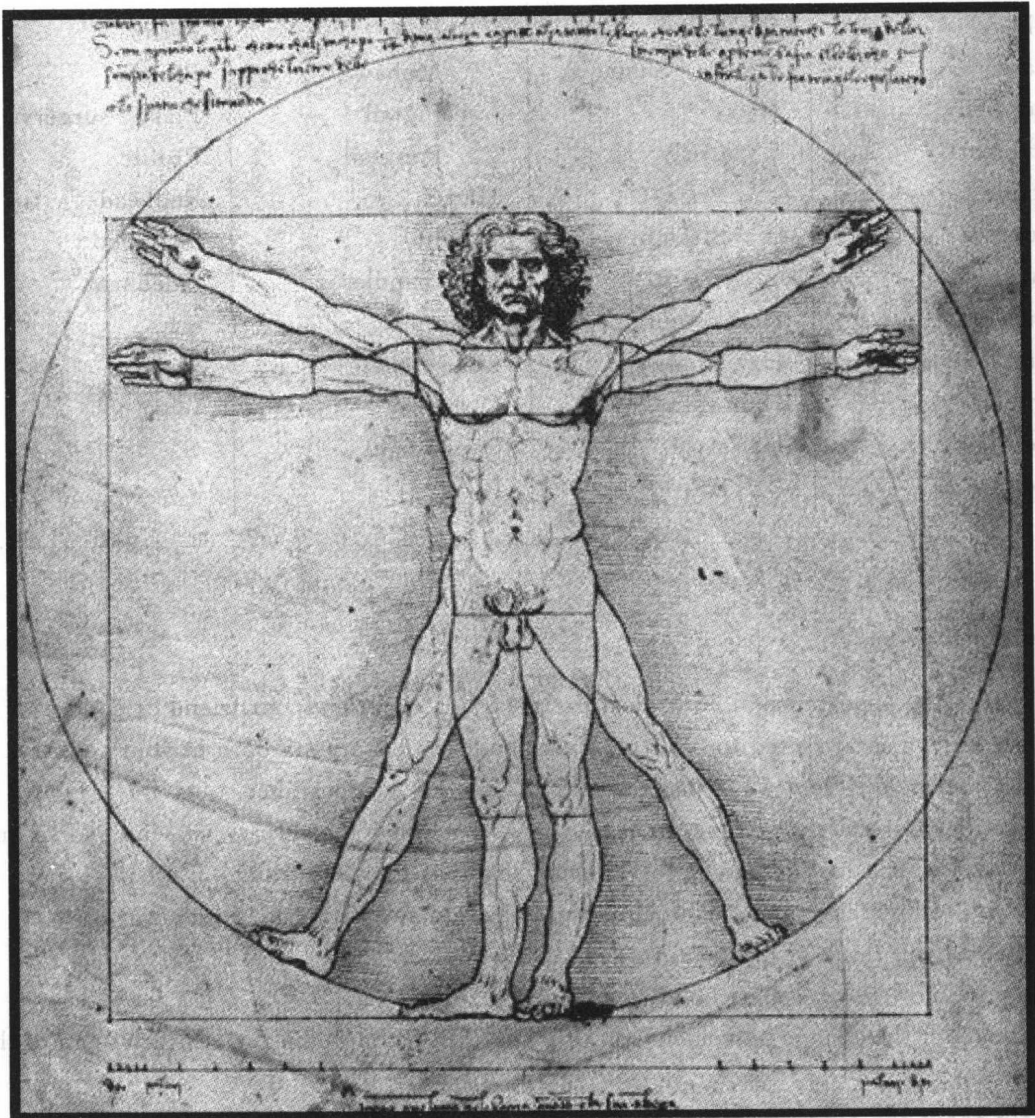
U N I T	DISCUSSION TOPIC	AMERICAN STYLE	GET WISE WITH PROVERBS	AMERICAN SLANG	PRONUNCIA- TION	HOMEWORK	PAGE
1	Appearance	Appearance in America	A bird— A man	Ace— Antifreeze	“R” and “L” sounds	Vocab. , Prov. Slang, Compos.	1
2	Beliefs	American Beliefs	A stitch— All good	Barfed— Bent	“L” and “N” sounds	Vocab. , Prov. Slang, Compos.	6
3	Clothes	Clothes in America	All roads— An apple	Big— Blow	“TH” and “S” sounds	Vocab. , Prov. Slang, Compos.	11
4	Economy	Economy in America	Appearances— Beauty	Blew— Booze	Strong and weak forms	Vocab. , Prov. Slang, Compos.	16
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23	Pollution	Pollution in America	The best—The first	Peanuts—Promo	Punctuation	Vocab. , Prov. Slang, Compos.	111
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## UNIT 1

# APPEARANCE





**Discussion topic :**

# APPEARANCE

**Key words :**

Bald	Eyelid	Bun	Petite
Beard	Figure / Shape	Mohawk	Pimple
Beer belly	Hair:	Pigtail	Plastic surgery
Birthmark	Curly	Ponytail	Profile
Blonde	Frizzy	Hairy	Redhead
Brunette	Straight	Height	Shampoo
Brush	Wavy	Love handles	Sideburns
Comb	Hair conditioner	Make-up	Size
Complexion	Hair mousse	Moustache	Weight
Dimple	Hair spray	Obese	Wig
Eyebrow	Hairstyle:	Overweight	
Eyelash	Bob	Perm	

**Discussion questions :**

1. What is the appearance of your ideal partner, i. e. boyfriend, girlfriend or spouse?
2. Why are we so attracted to beauty? Talk about the beauty standard in your country.
3. Describe the different ways that one can change one's appearance.
4. Describe your daily grooming process such as washing, showering, shaving and so on.
5. Do people start looking similar after being together for a long time? Explain.
6. Do you follow fashion trends in clothing, make-up and hairstyle? Explain.
7. What do you think of plastic surgery?
8. Do you know how to match clothes colors?
9. Talk about the change in women's beauty standard from plump two centuries ago to thin now?
10. Talk about the old Chinese custom of women binding their feet.

**American style :**

# APPEARANCE IN AMERICA

1. America is a land of immigrants, and thus Americans do not necessarily look like the stereotype shown in Hollywood movies. An American could, for instance, be a European-American, an African-American or an Asian-American. Whereas the majority of Americans come from European descent, a growing number of Americans come from other ethnic backgrounds.
2. The two biggest minorities in the US are Hispanics and African-Americans. Hispanics are people who descended from Spanish-speaking ancestors. Hispanics comprise the biggest minority and their percentage of the population is growing fast because of a high birth rate and immigration. It is predicted that by the middle of this century, Hispanics will be the majority in California.
3. Most Americans like to keep in shape and stay young. Thus, many people work out and enjoy the outdoors. However, because of a high intake of junk food from such places as McDonald's, many Americans are overweight or obese.
4. Most Americans think that blondes are the sexiest and most beautiful girls. Of course, some Americans prefer brunettes, redheads, Asians and so on.
5. As in other countries, "thin is in" among girls and women. This means that the thinner they are, the more attractive they become. Dieting and exercising are the ways to get thin.
6. Americans like being outdoors and in touch with nature. A tanned look is regarded as healthy and attractive.
7. Americans like to dress casually. Jeans, T-shirts and sports shoes are the most common outfit. In the south of the US, people like to dress in boots, jeans, plaid shirts and cowboy hats.
8. Hairstyles in the US come in all shapes, from dreadlocks to skinheads.

**Get wise with proverbs :** Fill in the blanks with the correct answer from 1, 2, 3 or 4.

A \_\_\_\_ in the hand is worth two in the bush.

(1. Coin, 2. Glove, 3. Money, 4. Bird)

A \_\_\_\_ is known by the company he keeps.

(1. Lady, 2. Woman, 3. Man, 4. Girl)

A \_\_\_\_\_ in need is a friend indeed.

(1. Thief, 2. Book, 3. Beggar, 4. Friend)

A man's home is his \_\_\_\_\_.

(1. Car, 2. Money, 3. Castle, 4. Own)

**American slang :** Guess the slang in bold.

The **ace** shooter got a perfect score.

(1. Ice, 2. Best, 3. Crazy, 4. New)

In Beijing, "San Li Tun" is where the **action** is.

(1. Entertainment, 2. Food, 3. Hotel, 4. Police)

She may be pretty but she's a real **airhead**.

(1. Girl, 2. Stupid person, 3. Leader, 4. Woman)

His ideas about improving the business are **all wet**.

(1. Nice, 2. Old, 3. Wrong, 4. Crazy)

Even an **all-nighter** won't help him pass.

(1. stay up to midnight, 2. stay up all night)

Some vodka is the best **antifreeze** on a cold day like this.

(1. Liquor, 2. Help, 3. Work, 4. News)

**Pronunciation :** Some Chinese mispronounce the sounds "R" and "L". Note that for the "R" sound, the tongue is curled up but doesn't touch the top of the mouth. For the "L" sound, the tip of the tongue is pressed against the top of the mouth. Practice:

ray lay  
read lead  
rain lain  
rash lash

fire file  
right light  
paris palace  
marrow mellow

crew clue  
crime climb  
crowd cloud  
fry fly

arrive alive  
correct collect  
steer steel  
river liver

**Homework:**

**Vocabulary practice:** Fill in the blanks with the key words in “Discussion topic”.

Whenever she eats spicy food or chocolate, her face breaks full of \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Many actresses undergo \_\_\_\_\_ in their later years in order to keep looking young.  
 When a criminal is booked, the police take both his/her front and \_\_\_\_\_ pictures.  
 Her nice smile is accentuated by beautiful \_\_\_\_\_ in her cheeks.  
 She was born with a \_\_\_\_\_ on her left thigh.  
 Many Asian women undergo plastic surgery to change from single to double \_\_\_\_\_.  
 He noticed her long, curly \_\_\_\_\_ when she blinked her beautiful eyes.  
 The skin cosmetics company chose her as a model for her smooth and clean \_\_\_\_\_.  
 In order to disguise himself, he grew long hair, a mustache and a long \_\_\_\_\_.  
 He decided to start exercising after he developed \_\_\_\_\_ around the midsection.  
 Because of her \_\_\_\_\_ size, she always looked like a cute little girl.  
 He lost most of his hair and became \_\_\_\_\_ by the time he was forty.  
 There are many jokes about dumb \_\_\_\_\_ in the US.  
 The young Asian girl wanted to look more mature so she cut her long hair and \_\_\_\_\_ it.  
 Because he drank so much, he developed a big \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Many Americans are \_\_\_\_\_ because of their daily intake of junk food.

**Proverb practice:** Which proverb is appropriate for each of the following situations?

One is the boss in one's home.  
 Those who stick around in your times of difficulty are the ones who really care about you.  
 You can get a good idea of who a person is by knowing his/her friends.  
 You should not be too greedy and reach out for more than you need.

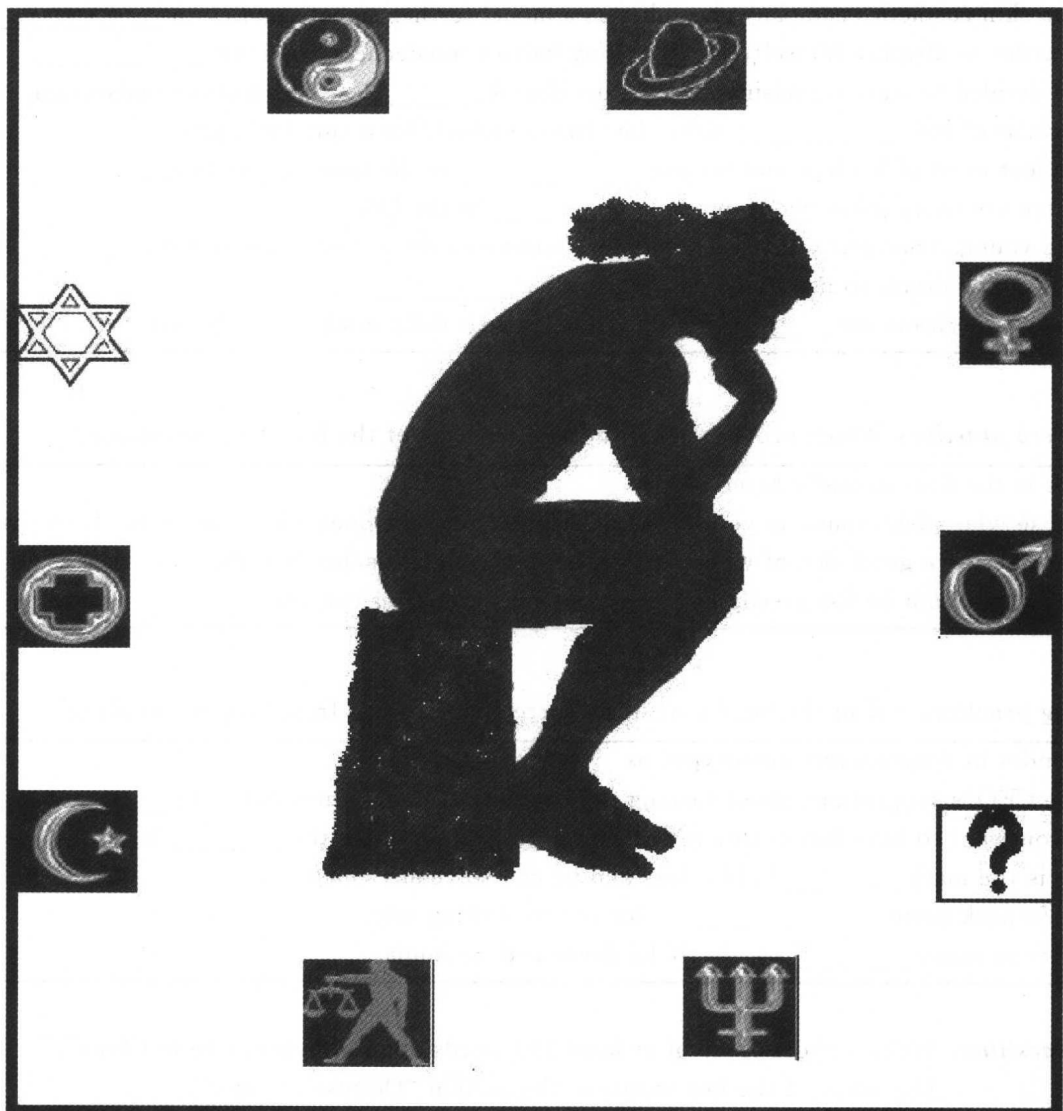
**Slang practice:** Fill in the blanks with the correct slang word from “American slang”.

Blondes in America are stereotyped as \_\_\_\_\_.  
 The CEO's suggestions about turning the business around turned out to be \_\_\_\_\_.  
 If you want to have fun in this town, you need to find where the \_\_\_\_\_ is.  
 He is the math \_\_\_\_\_ in his class and he can solve any equation.  
 Let's pack some \_\_\_\_\_ for our ice-fishing trip.  
 After so many \_\_\_\_\_, he developed insomnia.

**Composition:** Write a short essay of at least 100 words about “Appearance in China”.  
 Use some of the key words in the section “Discussion topic”.

## UNIT 2

# BELIEFS





**Discussion topic :**

# BELIEFS

**Key words :**

Agnostic	Cremate	Geomancy	Islam	Taoism
Alien / ET	Cult	Ghost	Judaism	UFO
Angel	Devil	Halloween	Magic	Universe
Astrology	Evolution	Haunted	Palm reading	Vampire
Atheist	Fairy tale	Heaven	Proselytize	Witch
Buddhism	Faith healing	Hell	Reincarnation	Worship
Christianity	Fate	Horoscope	Religion	Zodiac sign
Creation	Fortune teller	Hypnosis	Superstition	(Star sign)

**Discussion questions :**

1. Do you believe in extra-terrestrial life, i. e. life in other parts of the universe?
2. What is life? Is life a dream? Who are we? Where did we come from? Why are we here?
3. Do you know what your Zodiac sign says about your personality?
4. How is hypnosis practiced? Do you know how to interpret dreams?
5. Name some good or bad luck signs in China. Do you believe in “BiXian” (pen ghost)?
6. How do you think magicians perform their tricks?
7. Have you been to or heard of a haunted house? If yes, explain.
8. What do you think happens after death?
9. What do you think of geomancy?
10. Do you think religion is good or bad? Explain.

**Zodiac signs :**

Jan 20—Feb 18	<u>Aquarius</u>	(Water)	Jul 23—Aug 22	<u>Leo</u>	(Lion)
Feb 19—Mar 20	<u>Pisces</u>	(Fish)	Aug 23—Sep 22	<u>Virgo</u>	(Virgin)
Mar 21—Apr 19	<u>Aries</u>	(Ram)	Sep 23—Oct 22	<u>Libra</u>	(Scale)
April 20—May 20	<u>Taurus</u>	(Bull)	Oct 23—Nov 21	<u>Scorpio</u>	(Scorpion)
May 21—Jun 20	<u>Gemini</u>	(Twins)	Nov 22—Dec 21	<u>Sagittarius</u>	(Archer)
Jun 21—Jul 22	<u>Cancer</u>	(Crab)	Dec 22—Jan 19	<u>Capricorn</u>	(Goat)

*American style :*

# AMERICAN BELIEFS

1. Some superstitions still exist among Americans. The number “13” is a bad number (Do you know why?) and in many tall buildings, floor numbers skip from twelve to fourteen. Also, the number 666 is associated with the devil. One more example is that a black cat crossing one’s path in the morning is a bad omen.
2. Most Americans believe in the existence of God, Heaven and Hell, but not all practice. The major religions are Christianity, Judaism and Islam (among African-Americans) with Christianity having the most followers. There are so many branches in Christianity. Not including the Catholic church, there are the following churches: Reformed, Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist, Episcopalian, Congregationalist, . . .
3. Religion has become a big and sometimes corrupt business. Some Reverends pretend they can talk to God. Fake healing sessions are held. Some overwhelmed practitioners think they talk in tongues (they could be just mumbling some nonsense). Some reverends have extra-marital affairs. Some reverends live in mansions built from worshippers’ contributions. Churches compete in building the most expensive and best looking churches!
4. Notwithstanding the many problems mentioned above, religion is still the moral pillar that supports the American society. America always turns to God for support and comfort in times of trouble. Sunday sermons always preach the merits of good versus evil. In addition, religious organizations carry out social activities such as sheltering the homeless and feeding the poor.
5. Americans believe that democracy and freedom should rule all parts of the world. However, when it comes to the US criticizing other countries’ policies and human rights records, it’s like the pot calling the kettle black.
6. Some miscellaneous items about beliefs. Some people enjoy reading tabloids, which are papers that contain hilarious and outrageous stories such as: “I slept with a Martian!” Some people consult with fortune-tellers, most of whom are gypsies (Madam Zora, what’s in my future?). And some people believe in extra-terrestrial life.

**Get wise with proverbs:** Fill in the blanks with the correct answer from 1, 2, 3 or 4.

**A stitch in time saves \_\_\_\_\_.**

(1. Trouble, 2. Nine, 3. Money, 4. Time)

\_\_\_\_\_ **makes the heart grow fonder.**

(1. Love, 2. Money, 3. Sickness, 4. Absence)

\_\_\_\_\_ **speak louder than words.**

(1. Noise, 2. Actions, 3. Men, 4. Movies)

**All good \_\_\_\_\_ must come to an end.**

(1. Things, 2. Movies, 3. News, 4. Friends)

**American slang:** Guess the slang in bold.

After toasting so many guests at the party, I **barfed** all over bathroom.

(1. Danced, 2. Sang, 3. Threw up, 4. Yelled)

Getting ready for the exam left her feeling like a **basket case**.

(1. Very nervous, 2. Happy, 3. Stupid, 4. Smart)

She felt **beat** after the long business trip.

(1. Tired, 2. Happy, 3. Busy, 4. Great)

**Beat it!**

(1. Fight, 2. Hit it, 3. Go away, 4. Help)

**Beats me!**

(1. I don't know, 2. I'm afraid, 3. I'm tired)

Don't mess with her today; she's really **bent out of shape**.

(1. Angry, 2. Aching, 3. Sleepy, 4. Fat)

**Pronunciation:** Some Chinese mispronounce the sounds "L" and "N". Note that the "N" sound is nasal, that is made with the nose, and the tongue is pressed against the top of the mouth behind the teeth. Practice:

lab	nab	lick	nick	slip	snip	slob	snob
lag	nag	life	knife	slack	snack	slow	snow
lap	nap	light	night	sleaze	sneeze	slug	snug
lame	name	low	know	sleek	sneak	lull	null
let	net	slap	snap	slide	snide	veil	vein

**Homework :**

**Vocabulary practice :** Fill in the blanks with the key words in “Discussion topic”.

Practitioners of western religions believe that bad people go to \_\_\_\_\_ after death.  
\_\_\_\_\_ is the study of how to arrange the architecture and landscape to bring good fortune.  
Some psychiatrists put their patients under \_\_\_\_\_ in order to solve their problems.  
“Cinderella” and “Snow White” are examples of \_\_\_\_\_.  
Some people think there are ghosts in that \_\_\_\_\_ house.  
\_\_\_\_\_ is the belief that life and death follow each other in an unending continuous cycle.  
It is pure \_\_\_\_\_ that after so many years they met and got married.  
People who believe in \_\_\_\_\_ rely on prayer and don't seek medical help when they get sick.  
Every day she reads her \_\_\_\_\_ to find out what will happen to her.  
\_\_\_\_\_ is the study of the alignment of the stars in order to predict the future.  
Because he's an \_\_\_\_\_, he believes that humans can't prove whether God exists or not.  
She said she's an \_\_\_\_\_ and doesn't believe in God.  
After his death, his body was \_\_\_\_\_ and the ashes were kept in an urn.  
\_\_\_\_\_ is the belief that life started with the “Big Bang”.  
\_\_\_\_\_ is the belief that God created the world.  
That movie presented the idea that \_\_\_\_\_ from other planets now live among humans.

**Proverb practice :** Which proverb is appropriate for each of the following situations?

When you don't see some close people for a long time, you miss them.  
Taking care of a problem in a timely fashion is the best way.  
Too much talk and no follow up is useless.  
Nothing lasts forever.

**Slang practice :** Fill in the blanks with the correct slang word from “American slang”.

Having missed the important deadline, the boss became totally \_\_\_\_\_.  
After such a long day in the summer sun, I felt \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_ ! I really don't know how to get there.  
The winding mountain road made her carsick and she \_\_\_\_\_ all over the seat.  
\_\_\_\_\_ before I get really mad.  
Not knowing how to handle her upcoming public speech, she's become a \_\_\_\_\_.

**Composition :** Write a short essay of at least 100 words about “Beliefs in China”.

Use some of the key words in the section “Discussion topic”.