

GENERAL
CONVERSATION FOR
HONG KONG

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通用英語會話

By
M.Y. So



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The writer is gratified to see that this book has been
presented to the readers as a successor to the publication
"Essential English Conversation" in 1956, after a long interval
of many years.

Twenty years is a long period during which the things
and the Characters in that book have largely changed, thus
altering what they thought and talked about with the time
and condition for background obsolete. In other words they
are grown old in age and mind, so they have to bid farewell to
the readers and retreat into obscurity.

It is to be hoped that this book will appear in its first
part a book for our readers who are thirsty for second reading
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put the readers with an up-to-date oral capacity adequately
aware of what they think of both day-to-day routine and
great social affairs.

The writer will feel consoled should this book not be
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It is to be hoped that this book will appear in its fresh vigorous look for the readers who are thirsty for sound reading material and through the speech of the Dialogists in this book inspire the readers with an up-to-date oral capacity adequately expressive of what they think of both day-to-day routine and current social affairs.

The writer will feel consoled should this book not be considered rubbish and, on the contrary, offer some wholesome substance essential to those who incline to be modern.

M. Y. SO



contents

FOREWORD

LESSONS:

- | | | |
|-----|--|----|
| 1. | In The Park
在公園 | 8 |
| 2. | At The Watch Company
買錶 | 10 |
| 3. | Demanding The Payment Of Outstanding Bills
討賬 | 14 |
| 4. | At The Shoe Maker's
買鞋 | 16 |
| 5. | A Talk Between Two Classmates (1)
級友談話 (一) | 18 |
| 6. | A Talk Between Two Classmates (2)
級友談話 (二) | 20 |
| 7. | Offering An Agency
賦予代理權 | 22 |
| 8. | At the Sports Company
在體育用品公司 | 26 |
| 9. | A Talk Between 2 Staff Members
職員談話 | 28 |
| 10. | Interviewing An Applicant
會見應徵者 | 30 |
| 11. | Promoting The Sale
推銷產品 | 32 |
| 12. | A Landslide Tragedy Again
又是一宗山泥傾瀉的慘劇 | 34 |
| 13. | A Phone Call
電話對話 | 38 |
| 14. | At The Studio
照相 | 42 |
| 15. | A Farewell-Audience
辭行的拜會 | 46 |
| 16. | At The Consulting Physician's
在醫葯顧問診所 | 50 |
| 17. | A Eulogy On Anti-narcotic Campaign
頌揚反毒運動 | 54 |

18.	A Swim 游泳	58
19.	At The Post Office 在郵政局	62
20.	Mental Hospitals——The Products of Intense Life 精神病院——緊張生活的產物	64
21.	Buying Insurance 購買保險	68
22.	About Movies 談電影	72
23.	Opening A Current Account 開往來戶口	76
24.	A New Year's Call 拜年	80
25.	Establishing A Letter Of Credit 開出信用票	84
26.	Hosting A Guest (A Mock-Dialogue) 招待客人 (模擬對話)	88
27.	At The Travel Agency 在旅行社	92
28.	A House-hunt 租屋	96
29.	A Rough Touch On Transport 略談運輸問題	100
30.	An Outing To Shatin 沙田郊遊	104
31.	Attending A Wedding Dinner 參加婚宴	108
32.	A Shocking Report On Traffic Accidents 驚人交通意外的報告	112
33.	Hong Kong Population——A Thorn Problem 香港人口——一個辣手的問題	116
34.	A Gloomy View On Violent Crime 對暴力犯罪的悲觀論調	120
35.	A Rosy Outlook For Tourism 旅遊事業的燦爛前景	124
36.	The New Look In Hong Kong 香港的新面貌	128
	CONVERSATIONAL PHRASES	134
	GREETINGS AND CONDOLENCE	156
	COUNTRIES (OR CITIES) AND PEOPLE	158
	CONTINENTS AND PEOPLE	159

IN THE PARK

- Tai: Good morning, Mr. Green, I didn't look to see you here!
- Green: Hello, Mr. Tai, what are you doing here so early in the morning?
- Tai: I take morning exercise as part of my daily life. I always get up at dawn and I'm here at six. First I take a walk for half an hour, then I do physical exercises till eight.
- Green: Exercise, particularly in the morning, makes your blood circulate actively and normally throughout the body, so you look younger for your age. Not only that but you're strong and energetic as well.
- Tai: Once I suffered seriously from rheumatism for 5 years. I felt pains all over. Then I went to see the doctor.
- Green: What then?
- Tai: Then after paying a heavy doctor's bill, I was disillusioned. It proved to be rubbish.
- Green: Ah, you should do something about it.
- Tai: I resorted to morning exercise. After 4 years' efforts, my disease was gone along with my pot belly which you used to laugh at. Now my appetite has improved. I can stand all kinds of weather and I cope with the crowded daily routine without tiring.
- Green: Really, it should be attributed to your constant exercise. Your personal experience serves as a lesson to me. I should follow your example.
- Tai: What are you doing here in a sports suit?
- Green: I played tennis. It's a good exercise but I do it only occasionally. That's why after I play 2 games, I am very tired. I feel I can hardly move a step.
- Tai: Do keep on, if you find it helpful! Now that this park has been beautified, it has many more scenic attractions than last year.
- Green: . Actually, the Urban Council has done its best for the re-creation of Hong Kong residents. It's a waste not to make the best use of it. Don't you think so?
- Tai: Yes. I have to be back now. My wife is expecting me home for breakfast. See you.

在公園

- 戴： 早安，格林先生，想不到在這兒見到你！
- 格林： 喂，戴先生，大清早在這兒做什麼？
- 戴： 我以晨運作為每日生活的一部份，我破曉起床，六時來到這兒。首先，我散步半小時，然後做健身操直到八時。
- 格林： 運動，尤其是晨運，令你全身的血液循環暢通和正常，所以你看起來并不老，不但不老，而且健壯而精神煥發。
- 戴： 我曾經害過五年的嚴重風濕病，全身疼痛，光顧過無數次醫生。
- 格林： 後來呢？
- 戴： 花去一大筆醫藥費以後，我覺悟了。藥物是無用的。
- 格林： 哦，你應該積極想辦法才對。
- 戴： 我訴諸運動了。經過四年努力之後，我的病好了。常給你取笑的大肚臍也消失了。現在我食慾增加，經得起各種天氣和繁瑣的例行公事而不覺疲勞。
- 格林： 真的，那應歸功於你的經常運動。你的個人經驗，對我來說是一個教訓。我應當以你作為榜樣。
- 戴： 你穿上全副運動裝幹嗎？
- 格林： 打網球，那是一種好的運動，但我只偶然玩一玩。因此，打上兩個回合，真夠累了，一步也走不動了。
- 戴： 如你覺得有益，一定要繼續幹下去！現在，這個公園已美化了，比起去年，增加了不少怡人的景色。
- 格林： 不錯。市政局為着香港市民的娛樂，已盡了最大的努力。如不盡量的利用，多麼可惜，對嗎？
- 戴： 對啊！內子在等在我吃早餐了，我得走了，再見。

AT THE WATCH COMPANY

- Clark: Mr. Shi, can you show me somewhere to get a watch?
- Shi: Sure. Which kind of watch do you want, man's wrist watch or lady's?
- Clark: Oh, man's.
- Shi: One at moderate or expensive price?
- Clark: As long as the performance and quality are true its name will do.
- Shi: So far as I know, Omega and Rolex are two of the best brands. All are of Swiss make.
- Clark: As you are an experienced watch-user, which do you prefer?
- Shi: I prefer Omega for its accuracy. Further, there's a big range of selections for us to choose from. I mean the style and features.
- Clark: Can you spare a while to show me?
- Shi: With pleasure. It's just round the corner. It will take us only a five minutes' walk. Here we are. "Modern Watch Company", let's go in.
- Shopman: Good morning, Sir, what can I do for you?
- Shi: Morning. Please show us some of your Omega watches. Both moderate and super ones.
- Shopman: I'd be pleased to. Please sit down. Here are some of them.
- Shi: Is this solid gold?
- Shopman: Yes, and calendar, self-winding. Not only that, it's a so-called stop-watch that means accuracy to the second.

買 錶

克拉克： 施先生，陪我去買一隻錶好嗎？

施： 可以。男裝手錶還是女裝的？

克拉克： 男裝。

施： 中等或高價錶？

克拉克： 只要性能和品質良好，名副其實就得了。

施： 依我所知，亞美加和勞力士是名錶，都是瑞士出品。

克拉克： 你是用錶的內行人，你說哪一種好呢？

施： 我喜歡亞美加的準確。還有，種類繁多，可供挑選。我所說的是指它的款式和特點。

克拉克： 你可否抽出時間和我走一走嗎？

施： 當然。剛在轉角處。只要走上五分鐘就到了。這兒是摩登鐘錶公司，我們進去吧。

店員： 早安。請問想買什麼？

施： 早安。我們要看一看亞美加錶。普通的和高價的。

店員： 好的，請坐下，這些就是了。

施： 這一隻是純金的嗎？

店員： 是。有日曆和自動。它叫做計時錶，準確到一秒不差。

Clark: How much is this?

Shopman: Five thousand.

Shi: Are you an Omega Authorized Retail Agent?

Shopman: Sure. Here's the Omega Agent Sign in our front show-window. It certifies us as an official dealer.

Shi: Any reduction?

Shopman: Sorry! This is our flat fixed price. You can't have it any less elsewhere in Hong Kong.

Clark: How long do you guarantee?

Shopman: One year. Any repair within the guaranteed period from the date issued is free of charge.

Clark: Can I see your watch-band?

Shopman: Here they are. I suggest this one, it is popular and only costs you 200 dollars. We have sold a lot because of their elegance.

Clark: Good, it appeals to me. Mr. Shi, I want your comment.

Shi: I think we've made the best choice. They're well-matched, aren't they?

Clark: Yes, they are. Here's my travel check.

Shopman: Thank you. Here're our invoice and Guarantee Certificate. Let me wrap them up.

克拉克： 多少錢？

店員： 五千元。

施： 你們是亞美加的特約經銷商嗎？

店員： 當然。前面櫃窗裏掛着招牌，證明我們是正式的零售商。

施： 可以減價嗎？

店員： 對不起。這是公價貨。別處找不到更便宜的貨色了。

施： 保用多久呢？

店員： 一年。在發出保證書一年以內，免費修理。

克拉克： 看一看錶帶。

店員： 好的。我向你推薦買這條只售二百元的流行牌子，因為美觀，我們已大量售出了。

克拉克： 我很合意。施先生，你認為怎樣？

施： 我想我們已作最好的選擇了。很相配的，是嗎？

克拉克： 對。這是旅行支票。

店員： 謝謝。這是發票和保證書。讓我把它們包起來。

DEMANDING THE PAYMENT OF OUTSTANDING BILLS

Polin: Good morning, I have to remind you of our bills No. 202 and 204 still unpaid. Would you please pay us both of them to ease our business operation?

Pui: Yes, sit down, please. Would you let me see your bill?

Polin: Here it is. In early September, we sent our first reminder and then at the end of September, the second one. I suppose it's still in your memory.

Pui: It seems to me that there's one for one hundred thousand and another for two hundred thousand dollars, isn't that right?

Polin: Correct. Here are our bills, please check them over.

Pui: Well, about this, I have to ask you a favour by leaving the second bill till early October. As you know, business is deadly quiet and we find it difficult to collect part of our business accounts from our clients.

Polin: I see. As the case stands, we have to make some concession, but, one point, I have to say that's our final limit. The fact is that we are in the same position as you. During the prevailing economic recession, eight out of ten struggle hard for their viabilities.

Pui: Really. If I pay down by giving you a crossed check, can I have the receipt now?

Polin: Certainly. I can do it right now.

Pui: O.K. Please have some drinks. The weather is rather sticky, isn't it?

Polin: Thank you. Anyhow, I'll explain to our manager your present situation. I believe he would be agreeable to your case. However, should there be any further postponement, I think he'll surely pull a long face on it.

Pui: Right then, I'll take your hint. Thank you.

討 賬

布林： 早安，我必須提醒你第202和第204號欠賬，請你設法清還，鬆弛一下我們生意資金的周轉好嗎？

貝： 好的。請坐。讓我看一看你的賬單好嗎？

布林： 這就是了。九月初，我們送上第一份通知單，然後在九月底又送上第二份，我想你還記得吧。

貝： 好像是一份追討十萬元，另一份追討二十萬元是嗎？

布林： 不錯。這些是我們的賬單，請核一核。

貝： 哦，這件事，我須請你幫忙，把第二份賬單延期至十月初償還。你知道啦，生意很淡，我們覺得很難向顧客們討回部份的欠賬啊。

布林： 我明白。情形既然如此，我們必須讓步。但是，有一點我須表明，那是我們最後的期限。事實上，我們的處境也是一樣。在這經濟普遍性衰退的時候，十間公司之中，有八間是在掙扎中求生存的！

貝： 真的，如我以劃線支票付清，可以現在發給收據嗎？

布林： 當然。可以立即發給。

貝： 好吧。請喝茶，天氣怪悶熱的，是嗎？

布林： 謝謝。無論如何，對你目前的處境，我會向經理解釋一番。我相信他是會同意的。不過，萬一你到期又再拖延，我想他一定會板起面孔來的。

貝： 唔，我明白了，謝謝。

AT THE SHOE-MAKER'S

- Kwong: What else do you require from Hong Kong, Mr. Bruce?
- Bruce: I have nearly everything except for a pair of shoes.
- Kwong: Do you want custom-made or ready-made ones?
- Bruce: Custom-made. The ones I have on are of superior reptile skin with a style something different from that of Hong Kong. Can I get that here?
- Kwong: Sure. There's Lee Kee in Kowloon. It is one of Hong Kong's leading shoe-makers. Let's give it a try, shall we?
- Bruce: Look! The neon-sign bearing "LEE KEE" is in sight.
- Kwong: Here we are. Please, can you make shoes exactly to the style of his with same quality and excellent workmanship?
- Shopman: Let me see. Oh, it's a superior reptile skin. It may cost you not less than 500 Hong Kong dollars in Italy. Yet in Hong Kong, you can have it at a bit over one half, say 300. We don't mean that our workmanship is inferior, on the contrary, ours will be the same at least or probably better. You order here, you will have a bargain.
- Bruce: Do you mean everything including the sole which is an Italian specialty?
- Shopman: Certainly. We've made a lot for the tourists yet we never receive any complaints from them.
- Bruce: However, as I'm leaving Hong Kong next Thursday, will they be ready by then?
- Shopman: Let me see. Anyway, we'll rush them for you. Is next Thursday morning all right?
- Bruce: No, that's a bit late. Can I have them on Wednesday night? I have to put them into my luggage before handing it over to the Airlines.
- Shopman: Never mind. I'll leave the order with the makers. Now please take off your shoes, I want to take measurements. All right then.
- Bruce: By the way, can I have a box of shoe polish and a full set of handy shoeshine free of charge?
- Shopman: Sorry about that. We can only do it occasionally during a grand sale or some time at the beginning of a new season.
- Bruce: I see. Here are two one-hundred dollar notes for deposit.
- Shopman: Thank you. Here's the receipt. By the way, we welcome your mail order whenever desired. Please keep our catalogue. Good-bye.