

Colloquial English

Graham Coe



COLLOQUIAL ENGLISH

COLLOQUIAL ENGLISH

Graham Coe



Routledge & Kegan Paul

London, Boston and Henley

To Joan

*First published in 1981
by Routledge & Kegan Paul Ltd
39 Store Street, London WC1E 7DD,
9 Park Street, Boston, Mass. 02108, USA, and
Broadway House, Newtown Road,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 1EN
Set in 9/11 Linoterm Times by
Rowland Phototypesetting, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk
and printed in Great Britain by
Lowe & Brydone Printers Ltd, Thetford, Norfolk
© Graham Coe 1981
No part of this book may be reproduced in
any form without permission from the
publisher, except for the quotation of brief
passages in criticism*

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Coe, Graham

*Colloquial English. – (Routledge colloquial
series).*

- 1. English language – Text-books for foreigners*
- 2. English language – Spoken English*

I. Title

428.2'4 PE1128 80-41795

ISBN 0-7100-0740-X

Uniform with this edition

Colloquial Arabic
Colloquial Arabic (Levantine)
Colloquial Chinese
Colloquial Czech
Colloquial Dutch
Colloquial French
Colloquial German
Colloquial Greek
Colloquial Hungarian
Colloquial Italian
Colloquial Japanese
Colloquial Persian
Colloquial Portuguese
Colloquial Romanian
Colloquial Russian
Colloquial Spanish
Colloquial Turkish

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author and publishers are grateful to the following for permission to reproduce copyright material:

London Transport Ltd for the map of the London Underground and material adapted from the pamphlet 'Underground to Heathrow' (pp. 16-19);

The Consumers Association for illustrations and material adapted from the July 1977 issue of *Which?* (p. 93);

The Post Office for information taken from the Telephone Directory (pp. 122-4).

INTRODUCTION

The aim of this book is to help the student of English as a foreign or second language to use colloquial English. It is for learners anywhere in the world who have completed about three years of English at secondary level (whether recently or some time ago) and who need to revise and improve their speaking and understanding of English for social purposes or for their work.

The book is divided into 18 Units, graded in order of difficulty. Each Unit is built around six or seven short dialogues in which essential functions of colloquial English are practised. Examples of printed material illustrating various uses of English, together with sketches and diagrams, help to reinforce the language in the dialogues. There are numerous practice exercises, some of which need answers. You can check the answers from the Key at the back of the book. Also at the back of the book is a check-list of important words used in the book (the words in the 'boxes') and a list of the main activities around which it is written. There is also a cassette recording of the dialogues. This is an essential part of the course.

If necessary the student can use this book without a teacher, though obviously it is useful to have at least the help of a friend to converse with. For each Unit, read the introduction to the dialogues first. Then read the dialogues (you will need a good dictionary to help you with unfamiliar vocabulary). Listen to the dialogues, then listen to them again, making pauses for repetition. Repeat after each speaker or in the middle of longer sentences. Do this several times. It is a good idea to learn bits of the dialogues by heart. When you know the dialogues well do the practice work (remember this is designed for self-help) and the rest of the work in the Unit. A lot of the practice work, including the comprehension questions, should be done in writing. Choose your answers as far as possible from the

dialogues or other material in the same Unit. Check your answers from the Key. But please note that in many exercises various answers are possible. Only one answer is given in the Key – the answer which is closest to the language in that Unit.

Some practice is given in listening for the changes of tone in certain phrases or sentences. This helps the student to realise that intonation in English helps us to express meaning.

For teachers who are going to use this book with their students there follow some further brief notes.

Meanwhile, welcome to Arcania, where most of the action in this book takes place.

FOR THE TEACHER

This book spans the intermediate learning stage, from low to high intermediate. It seeks to reinforce and enrich language skills that have probably been neglected, due to the requirements of many a formal English syllabus. It is designed to be of use in any country in the world and will prove especially useful for students in language schools. It is suited for use on a self-help basis which is why more of the mechanical type of exercises are present in the book. But a teacher's guidance and encouragement are, of course, always beneficial.

The dialogues and practice sections have been specially written. They may be regarded as reconstructions of spoken language, edited for the printed page. The material for Further Study has been adapted from typical examples of written English (notices, guide-books, etc).

While exposing the student to a wide range of colloquial English forms and styles we have naturally had to limit the selection of items to be taught. It is not possible to encompass the whole range of colloquial English patterns and idioms in a short book of this kind. Therefore you should regard this course as a stimulus for developing colloquial skills which can then be used in an infinite number of more specialised activities. Within the functional framework which is linked together (not too tightly) by the events in the book there has been a tacit grading of structural patterns, based on the schedule presented in 'English Grammatical Structure' by L. G. Alexander and others (published by Longman). But it is neither desirable nor, indeed, possible, for the notions of colloquial English to be rigidly tied to structural patterns. Nor has it been possible to exclude some of the more 'difficult' items of vocabulary from the earlier Units. As for the situations, they become gradually more complex towards the

latter part of the book, leading the student into longer dialogues.

In the Introduction a general approach to the use of the book has already been suggested. The basis of the approach is role-playing: the students should think themselves into the roles of the characters in the dialogues. Some of the vocabulary and structure may already have been met by the student in reading texts but the important thing is to transfer this knowledge to active and instinctive use for a variety of practical purposes.

In Unit 17 we have revision of some of the main idiomatic phrases in previous Units, and in Units 17 and 18 there is some attention to more formal elements of discussion which some students may require for business purposes. We are assuming that your students may come from all walks of life and that as young or not-so-young adults they require added confidence in using colloquial English.

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	vii
INTRODUCTION	ix
FOR THE TEACHER	xi
1 I'd like to book a flight.	1
2 Which way do I go now?	10
3 They're asking us to fasten our seat belts.	21
4 I hope we haven't missed our connection.	32
5 Can you find out how to turn the water on?	43
6 It says they've got boats for hire.	54
7 I couldn't drink any more, thanks.	65
8 We'd better look at the map again.	75
9 Can I have one made to measure?	85
10 We could see them doing the flower dance.	96
11 She seems to be the best qualified.	106
12 You're supposed to insert a twenty-cent coin.	117
13 Keep gargling with warm salt water.	128
14 They should've used more waterproof paper.	140
15 The damage can't be too serious.	150
16 There must be someone under that floor.	162
17 It's time we cut the tape.	172
18 Is everyone in favour?	186
KEY TO PRACTICE EXERCISES	198
ACTIVITIES INDEX	226
IMPORTANT WORDS: A CHECK-LIST	228

1 I'D LIKE TO BOOK A FLIGHT



Important words

travel agency

on business

exhibition

economy class

change (v.)

timetable

airline

voucher

receipt

air terminal

check in

reservation

confirmation

direct (adj.)

insurance

premium

account

valid

claim (n.)

It was Monday morning and a lot of people were collecting tickets in the Gold Star travel agency. Among them were Mr and Mrs Taylor and their two children, Sarah and John. They were going on holiday to a small hotel on the coast of Arcania. Arcania is a small country in Asia. It was once under British rule, so many of the people there speak English.

Mr Robert Lee was also in the travel agency. He was going to Arcania as well, but he was going on business. He was going to arrange an exhibition for his company. Mr Lee's company publishes books and he sells books all over the world.

Mr Taylor had booked his family's air tickets earlier, but Mr Lee hadn't booked his tickets yet.

DIALOGUE A

Mr Lee: I'd like to book a flight to Palmville, please.

Clerk 1: Certainly, sir, single or return?

Mr Lee: Return, please, economy class. I believe there's a flight next Saturday.

Clerk 1: Just a minute, sir, I'll check . . . Sorry, sir, that's fully booked. But you can catch an SAS flight via Copenhagen – you change in Copenhagen.

Mr Lee: That sounds all right. Could I see the timetable?

DIALOGUE B

Mr Taylor: I believe our tickets are ready. My name's Taylor.

Clerk 2: That's right, sir, here's your folder – air tickets, airline labels, hotel voucher, everything's here. And here's your receipt.

Mr Taylor: Fine. What time must we be at the air terminal?

Clerk 2: Your flight leaves at 19.30 and you must check in at the terminal two hours before.

DIALOGUE C

Mr Lee: Could you make a hotel reservation for me?

Clerk 1: Yes, sir, which hotel?

Mr Lee: Hotel Samyra, if possible.

Clerk 1: Sorry?

Mr Lee: Samyra. S-A-M-Y-R-A.

Clerk 1: I see. OK, we'll get confirmation as soon as possible.

DIALOGUE D

Mrs Taylor: How long does the flight take? It's a direct flight, isn't it?

Clerk 2: Yes, the travelling time is nine and a half hours. You arrive in Palmville just after 11.00 am local time. Your connecting flight to Port Merlin leaves two hours later.

Mrs Taylor: I hope we don't miss it.

DIALOGUE E

Mr Lee: I'd like to pay by cheque. Is that all right?

Clerk 1: Yes, sir, if you have a banker's card.

Mr Lee: Oh yes, here you are.

Clerk 1: Right. Thank you, sir.

DIALOGUE F

Mr Taylor: Oh, one more thing. Is our travel insurance all right?

Clerk 2: Yes, sir. The premium was included in our account.

Mr Taylor: And it's valid for the full two weeks?

Clerk 2: Oh, yes. In fact you're covered for seventeen days. And there's a claims form in your folder.

Notes

economy class: Most airlines have at least two classes of travel, first class and economy class, which is cheaper.

a folder: A big, strong envelope.

a voucher: This is a piece of paper which says that you have paid for something. You can use it instead of money to pay for food, travel, etc.

the air terminal: An airline office in the city.

a banker's card: This card proves that the bank will support your cheque payment.

the premium: Money which you pay when you take out insurance.

a claims form: You fill in a claims form if you want to claim under your insurance.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

- Why do people in Arcania speak English?
- Why was Mr Lee going to Arcania?
- What was Mr Lee going to do in Copenhagen?
- Had Mr Taylor paid for his family's holiday?
- When did the Taylor family have to check in at the air terminal?
- Where did the Taylors have to change?
- How long did the Taylors' travel insurance last?

PRACTICE 1

Fill in the missing words.

Mr Lee was going to fly (1) Copenhagen to Arcania. He was going there to arrange a book (2) He asked the clerk for a hotel (3) in Palmville. When he paid for his ticket he showed his (4)

When the Taylors went to the (5) they collected a (6) full of travel papers. The clerk gave them the (7) for their payment. When Mr Taylor asked the clerk about their (8) he told them it was (9) for over two weeks. The (10) was included in the (11) that he had received.

PRACTICE 2

Practise this dialogue with the clerk (B).

A: I believe there's a (n)

B: That's right, sir. It leaves at 10.20.

A: OK, could you make a reservation for me?

B: Certainly, sir, single or return?

SAS flight direct flight flight via Palmville connecting flight
--

PRACTICE 3

The clerk (B) is answering you. What did you say to him?

A:

B: Yes sir, they're in this folder.

A:

B: That's all right, sir. I'll give you a receipt.

A:

B: Two hours before the flight, sir.

PRACTICE 4

Which sentences (including one-word sentences) in the dialogues mean:

- (a) The flight takes nine and a half hours.
- (b) That's a good plan.
- (c) Very good!
- (d) Could you please repeat that.
- (e) Please take it.
- (f) Your insurance lasts
- (g) I understand.
- (h) I nearly forgot to mention something.

FURTHER STUDY

Here is part of an airline timetable.

Day	Mon										Tue										Wed									
Flight No. Aircraft Class	KE 001 747 F/Y	KE 701 A300 F/Y	KE 703 A300 F/Y	KE 721 A300 F/Y	KE 723 707 F/Y	KE 733 707 Y	KE 731 707 Y	KE 751 707 F/Y	KE 767 707 F/Y	KE 701 A300 F/Y	KE 703 DC10 F/Y	KE 721 707 F/Y	KE 733 707 Y	KE 731 707 Y	KE 751 707 F/Y	KE 757 707 Y	KE 616 A300 F/Y	KE 001 747 F/Y	KE 703 DC10 F/Y	KE 721 707 F/Y	KE 723 707 F/Y	KE 733 707 Y	KE 731 707 Y	KE 751 707 F/Y	KE 767 A300 F/Y					
Tokyo	Dp	1720	1050	1330							1720	1330							1720	1330										
Nagoya	Dp									1130																1130				
Osaka	Dp				1100	1350			1803			1100				1500	1355	1550		1100	1350					1800				
Fukuoka	Dp					1450	1140					1450	1140									1450	1140							
Pusan	Ar Dp							1220	1915						1220	1915	1510 1550							1220	1915					
Cheju	Ar																	1630												
Seoul	Ar	1930	1300	1540	1230	1520	1600			1310	1930	1540	1230	1600				1720	1930	1540	1230	1520	1600			1310				

PRACTICE 5

Passenger (A) is in Osaka. Complete the following dialogue with the clerk (B).

A: Cheju, please.

B: Certainly, sir, single or return?

A: Return, please, economy class. next Monday.

B: Just a minute, I'll check . . . Sorry sir, there's no flight on Monday. But there's

A: That all right. How long

B:

Here is a map with some information about travel.



Tourist Map of the Hallyo Coast

Transportation

By	From Seoul	Frequency	Duration	Fare
Express bus	Pusan	6.30-17.50 (10 min. intervals)	5 hrs 20 min.	US \$15

Hydrofoil

From	To	Frequency	Duration	Fare
Pusan	Chungmu	6 times/day	1½ hrs	US \$8.50
Chungmu	Yosu	3 times/day	1¾ hrs	US \$9.20

Important words

express bus
hydrofoil
ferry
cabin
fare