

# 留美生活英語

Life In The United States

龔少臣編著

**Life            留美生活英語**  
**In The**  
**United States**

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## 留美生活英語

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## **PREFACE**

The object of this book is to provide the readers with American English in a practical and common manner as well as a knowledge about the ways of life in the United States. Also in this book emphasis is put on the use of the familiar or informal style expressions of the language which the non-English speakers often have difficulty understanding.

This book contains thirty nine units, having broad information about the everyday living of the American people. Each unit has dialog materials and a variety of drills. The dialog topics are given in such a way that the readers are exposed to different situations which should be familiar to them. The drill forms, of course, are intended to be practiced orally and intensively. Further included in each unit is the notes section which will help the readers improve comprehension and facilitate the learning of the language.

About the publishing of this book, I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to the Zucal family for their invaluable suggestions and critical reading of my manuscript.

**Shelton Kung**

Taipei, December, 1979

# CONTENTS

UNIT	PAGE
1. A Drive-in Restaurant 汽車餐館 .....	1
2. Talking about a Shopping Center 談購物中心 .....	6
3. On a School Campus 在校園 .....	11
4. At a Bar 在酒吧 .....	16
5. A Slot Machine 吃角子老虎 .....	21
6. A Traffic Ticket 交通違規罰單 .....	26
7. Going to the Movies 看電影 .....	31
8. At a Rodeo 馬術競演會 .....	36
9. A Motel 汽車旅館 .....	41
10. Making a Collect Call 對方付款的長途電話 .....	46
11. At the Baseball Game 棒球比賽 .....	51
12. A Dude Ranch 觀光農場 .....	56
13. An Interview 面談 .....	61
14. In a Cafeteria 在自助餐餐館 .....	66
15. At a Department Store 在百貨公司 .....	71
16. Taking a Plane Trip 乘飛機旅行 .....	76
17. At a Cabaret 在觀光大飯店 .....	82
18. Buying a Car 買汽車 .....	87
19. Making a Date 約會 .....	92
20. At a Circus 在馬戲團 .....	96
21. In a Restaurant 在餐館 .....	101
22. Asking for Directions 問路 .....	106
23. Talking about a Lecture 談專題演講 .....	111
24. Talking about TV Program 談電視節目 .....	115
25. At the Filling Station 在加油站 .....	119
26. Buying a Pullman Ticket 買兩門火車票 .....	123
27. At the Cleaners 在乾洗店 .....	127
28. At a Drugstore 在藥房 .....	131

29. Buying a House 買房子	136
30. At a Bank 在銀行	140
31. A Picnic 野餐	144
32. Talking about the Weather 談天氣	149
33. Taking a Taxi 雇計程車	153
34. At the Doctor's 在醫生診所	157
35. Playing a Record Juke Box 自動點唱機	161
36. A Kill-joy 掃興的人	165
37. Christmas Holidays 聖誕假日	169
38. The State Fair 州博覽會	174
39. A Visit to Disneyland 遊狄斯奈樂園	179

**Life in the U.S.****UNIT 1****PART I: DIALOG**

(A: Tom B: Joe)

**A Drive-in Restaurant**

- A. Do you like to eat out, Joe?  
B. That sounds like a good idea.  
What kind of eating place do you have in mind?  
A. How about a drive-in restaurant?  
B. Good. Go to the Furmen's?  
A. No, Let's try a new place for a change. There's a nice one named Ruby on Highway 90.

B. Do they serve good food?

A. Sure. You can have excellent meals with moderate prices. And there are a lot of car hops to wait on you.

B. Are they pretty?

A. Most of them are. They are also very friendly.

B. O.K. I'll be ready as soon as I get dressed.

A. Take your time. I'll wait for you.

## PART II: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Why is the service so bad here?
  - a. This restaurant is short-handed.
  - b. The food is always good, though.
2. How come most Mexican girls are chubby?
  - a. No telling.
  - b. Maybe they don't like to diet.
3. Which do you prefer, ice cream or sherbet?
  - a. Neither one. Thank you.
  - b. I don't care for sweets.
4. What's good at this restaurant?
  - a. The fried Chicken is out of this world.
  - b. It's the specialty of this restaurant.
5. Do you have sundaes?
  - a. Sorry, we are sold out.
  - b. How about a banana split?
6. Do you want to freshen up?
  - a. Yes, I sure need to.
  - b. I look pretty messy.
7. What did you order?
  - a. I ordered a beef broil and salad.
  - b. They offer excellent roast veal too.
8. What shall we do with the eggs?
  - a. Break them.
  - b. You can't make omelets without breaking eggs.
9. Who owns this place?
  - a. Andrew Carnegie, the steel magnate.
  - b. He went from rags to riches.

\*\*\*\*\*



## PART III: SENTENCES FOR DICTATION

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. If I keep on eating like this, I'll put on weight.              | 1. 如果我繼續這樣吃下去，我會發福。  |
| 2. He is very particular about his food.                           | 2. 他對食物很講究。          |
| 3. How about a night bite at the Circle?                           | 3. 到圓環去宵夜怎麼樣？        |
| 4. Do you sell wine by the glass?                                  | 4. 你們的酒是否論杯賣？        |
| 5. Let me fix you a drink.   | 5. 讓我為你調杯酒。          |
| 6. Men can't live by bread alone.                                  | 6. 人不能單靠麪包生活。        |
| 7. Feast ye while ye may.  | 7. 你可以及時行樂。          |
| 8. My philosophy is "Eat, drink, and be happy."                    | 8. 我的人生觀是：吃、喝、玩樂。    |
| 9. This cafe offers authentic French cuisine at reasonable prices. | 9. 這家餐館有真正的法國菜，價錢不貴。 |
| 10. Americans are accustomed to "going Dutch".                     | 10. 美國人習慣於各人付各人的賬。   |

\*\*\*\*\*

## NOTES

*Drive-in restaurant* . . . . .



a restaurant or stand designed to accommodate patrons in their automobiles

(多設在公路的兩旁為便利開車顧客坐在車內吃的) 汽車餐館。

*For a change* . . . . .

for variety 多樣，變換(口味等)

*Wait on* . . . . .

serve, attend 侍候

<i>Take one's time.</i> .....	proceed slowly, leisurely 不慌不忙
<i>Short-handed.</i> .....	insufficiently supplied with workers 人手不足
<i>How come.</i> .....	why 爲什麼
<i>Chubby.</i> .....	round and plump 圓胖的
<i>No telling.</i> .....	short form of "There's no telling" (對這問題)不好講, 難說
<i>Car hop.</i> .....	a waitress in a drive-in restaurant 汽車餐館女侍
<i>Sweets.</i> .....	a candy, a tart, pudding, etc. (糖果、糕、布丁等)甜食
<i>Sherbet.</i> .....	a frozen dessert of fruit juice, sugar and water or milk 牛奶果凍
<i>Out of this world.</i> .....	absolutely terrific 好極了
<i>freshen up.</i> .....	make one fresh, as by washing or changing clothes 盥洗打扮一番
<i>Magnate.</i> .....	a person of great influence or standing in a field of business 大企業家、巨子、大亨
<i>From rags to riches.</i> .....	from extreme poverty to great wealth 從赤貧而成巨富, 白手起家。
<i>You can't make omelets without breaking eggs.</i> .....	(諺)爲達目的必須用手段(不打破雞蛋 怎能做蛋捲)

## PART IV: SUBSTITUTION EXERCISE

1. If I go on eating like this, I'll put on weight.

A

2. This restaurant is short-handed.

B

3. How come most Mexican girls are chubby?

C

4. He is very particular about his food.

D

5. Do you sell wine by the glass?

E

6. This cafe offers authentic French cuisine at reasonable prices.

F

7. American are accustomed to "going Dutch".

G

A

---

 outgrow my clothes  
 go bankrupt  
 get fat  
 gain weight
 

---

B

---

 understaffed  
 overmanned
 

---

C

---

 fat  
 obese  
 stout  
 pudgy
 

---

D

---

 fussy  
 critical  
 picky
 

---

E

---

 eggs by the dozen  
 milk by the can  
 cabbage by the head  
 fruit by the catty
 

---

F

---

 Chinese delicacies  
 Italian pizza  
 German cooking  
 Spanish food
 

---

G

---

 going fifty-fifty  
 sharing expenses  
 splitting cost
 

---

\*\*\*\*\*



GULFGATE SHOPPING CENTER, HOUSTON, TEX.

PART 1: Dialog (A: Jack B:Tom)

## Talking about a Shopping Center

- A. What's the rush, Tom?
- B. I must go downtown now.
- A. What for?
- B. I need to buy some groceries.
- A. You don't have to drive that far to get those things. There's a shopping center near here. It's called Winns. You can get what you need there.
- B. What's a shopping center?
- A. A shopping center is a group of stores within a single architectural plan. It's usually found in the suburbs.
- B. Why do people build it in the suburbs?
- A. Because many families move to the suburbs and people like to shop near home. Nearly all shopping centers have large parking lots so the customers can park

close to the stores. This makes parking much easier than in town.

B. Do all the big cities have shopping centers?

A. Yes, almost. As a matter of fact, the shopping center is an outgrowth of the mass move to the suburbs, and also an outgrowth of universal use of automobiles.

B. What kind of stores does a shopping center have?

A. A typical shopping center usually has a supermarket, a department store, a drug store, and many special stores such as book-stores, clothing stores, ten-cent stores, barber shops, and beauty parlors.

B. How far is Winns from here?

A. It's just a five or six minute drive.

B. Thanks for telling me everything.

A. Any time.

\*\*\*\*\*

## PART II: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What does a dime store sell?

a. A dime store offers a wide variety of inexpensive items for personal and household use.

b. F.W. Woolworth set up the first five-and-ten-cent store in the U.S. and his chain had more than 1,000 stores when he died.

2. Would you gift-wrap this for me?

a. Certainly.

b. I'll have it ready in a jiffy.

3. Where can I buy the Mexican jumping beans?

a. You can get it at a novelty shop.

b. It's a highly sought-after souvenir recently.

4. What do you need from the supermarket?

a. I must get a few pop-top cans of beer, several boil-in plastic bags of lunch food, some hardware items in bubble packages, two cartons of milk, etc.

b. It's hard to keep track of what I need.

c. I'd better put everything in black and white.

5. What's a supermarket?

- a. It's a grocery store operated on a self-service, cash-and-carry basis.
  - b. The customers pick out what they want and pay their bills at a check-out counter.
6. Did you send for me, sir?
- a. Yes, I want you to do something for me.
  - b. Go get this prescription filled on the double.

\*\*\*\*\*

### PART III: SENTENCES FOR DICTATION

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Good things come in small sizes.                                       | 1. 精工出細活。              |
| 2. In big cities everybody seems to be on the go.                         | 2. 在大城市裡每個人都顯得很忙碌。     |
| 3. What the salesgirls say always makes the customers feel ten feet tall. | 3. 女店員所說的總會令顧客們高興。     |
| 4. Business is pretty slow.   | 4. 生意很清淡。              |
| 5. This dress looks just right on you.                                    | 5. 這件衣服穿在你身上很合適。       |
| 6. If you want people to buy that, you'll have to hard sell.              | 6. 如果想要有人買就得積極推銷。      |
| 7. Businessmen like to talk shop.   | 7. 生意人喜歡三句話不離本行。       |
| 8. This stuff is a fake.  | 8. 這東西是贗品。             |
| 9. If you deal in real estate, you can make a fast buck.                  | 9. 如果你從事房地產生意，可以發一筆橫財。 |
| 10. Most wives like to keep up with the Joneses.                          | 10. 大多數太太們都愛向鄰居看齊。     |

\*\*\*\*\*

### NOTES

**Shopping center** ..... a group of stores built within a single architectural plan, supplying most of the basic shopping needs, usually located in suburban areas

	購物中心 (多建於郊區, 自成一單獨建築物, 內分各種商店)
<i>What's the rush?</i> .....	What's the hurry? 什麼事這麼急?
<i>What for?</i> .....	for what reason or purpose 何故? 為何?
<i>Groceries</i> .....	things sold by a grocer 食品雜貨
<i>Parking lot</i> .....	a distinct portion of land for parking 停車場
<i>Outgrowth</i> .....	a natural development or product 自然的發展或產物
<i>Gift-wrap</i> .....	wrap (something) as a package with decorative paper, ribbon, etc. for presentation as a gift 以華麗紙張及緞帶等包裝 (禮物)
<i>In a jiffy</i> .....	in a moment, immediately 立即
<i>Novelty shop</i> .....	a shop selling strange and attractive articles 珍玩店
<i>Hardware</i> .....	articles made from metal 五金器具
<i>Pop-top cans</i> .....	cans with tops easy to open 易開罐
<i>Keep track of</i> .....	Keep informed about 知曉
<i>In black and white</i> .....	in writing 用書面寫下
<i>Pick out</i> .....	make a choice of 選擇
<i>Send for</i> .....	ask or tell (a person) to come 叫 (某人) 來
<i>On the double</i> .....	hurry 快點
<i>Set up</i> .....	establish 設立
<i>Mexican jumping beans</i> .....	a certain plant seed from Mexico which is inhabited by the larva of a small moth whose movements cause the seed to move about or jump 墨西哥跳豆 (實乃一種灌木果實, 內藏一蛾類幼蟲, 遇熱會跳)
<i>Highly sought-after</i> .....	that is in demand 爭相羅致的, 很吃香的
<i>Ten-cent store</i> .....	a store offering a wide assortment of inexpensive items, formerly costing five or ten cents, for personal and household use, also called

dime store, five-and ten-cent store

便宜貨商店（創始者為 F.W. WOOLWORTH，專售個人及家庭價值低廉用品，從前每樣貨品只售五分或一角。）

**PART IV: SUBSTITUTION EXERCISE**

1. If you deal in real estate, you can make a fast buck.  
A
2. In big cities everybody seems to be on the go.  
B
3. This stuff is a fake.  
C
4. I'll have it ready in a jiffy.  
D
5. It's just a five minute drive.  
E
6. It's hard to keep track of what I need.  
F
7. If you want people to buy that, you will have to hard sell.  
G

A  
the stock market  
the import and export business  
the catering business  
the building trade

B  
in a hurry  
in a rush

C  
a phony  
a counterfeit  
a fraud

D  
in a minute  
right away  
in a moment  
immediately

E  
a five minute walk  
a half hour train ride  
a two hour flight  
a twenty minute bus ride

F  
current events  
the time  
every dollar we spend

G  
sweet talk  
advertise  
publicize it

\*\*\*\*\*



**Life in the U.S.****UNIT 3****PART I: DIALOG (A: Tom B: Joe)****On a School Campus**

- A. You know something, Joe? Jack flunked math.  
B. How do you like that! He is tops in the class, isn't he?  
A. Yes, he is the teacher's pet too.  
B. Was the exam pretty hard?  
A. It sure was. It's the most difficult exam I can remember.  
B. Did you get a passing mark?  
A. Yes, I did.  
B. I guess you must have burned the midnight oil.  
A. No, not me. You know that math is not my cup of tea.  
B. But how could you make it?  
A. Just by sheer luck.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PART II: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

1. What did John major in at college?
  - a. He was a chemistry major.
  - b. He was a straight A student.
2. Do you like ROTC courses?
  - a. No, I get bored with them.
  - b. But some of my fellow students like them very much.
3. What's the charge for tuition in your school?
  - a. It's \$18 per credit hour for undergraduates, and \$25 for graduates.