

話會英語的活
THE TALK OF THE TOWN

著 編 林 東 陳



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活的英語會話
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編著者 陳 東 林

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TO THE READERS

This little book is intended for any student of English who is really anxious to acquire the correct idiom in English conversation (which is so different from the *written* style of English).

The questions and answers are duplicated as exactly as possible what an up-to-date Englishman would say when speaking. In order to digest the contents properly the reader will have to swallow phrases and even entire sentences, and learn to speak them exactly as they are written.

One cannot expect to speak a foreign language as a foreigner born to the language until he has mastered its idiom. But a safe knowledge of the colloquial can only be acquired from a living person. This book is aimed to give a working knowledge of the idiom when no such person is available.

Perhaps this book will invite criticism because it defies grammatical rules. But it tries to speak English exactly as English is spoken nowadays in England. It is hoped, therefore, that it should prove a regular goldmine to advance students of English.

THE AUTHOR

Sept. 1, 1948

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THE TALK OF THE TOWN

活的英語會話

(1) NEW YEAR SEASON 年節

- A. The New Year season¹ is just upon us²; isn't it?
- 甲. 現在不是到了新的時節麼?
- B. Yes, it will soon be in full swing³; and that reminds me⁴; it's up to me⁵ to lay in⁶ a stock of⁷ seasonable goods⁸, before the shops run out of⁹ them.
- 乙. 是呀, 不久就要熱鬧一番了, 這使我想起來; 我得在店家沒有把貨物賣完之前, 去買好一批應時的物品.
- A. No time like the present¹⁰. Do you like shopping?
- 甲. 買東西最好在現在. 你喜歡到店家去買東西麼?
- B. Indeed I don't. It bores me to death¹¹. And I invariably¹² make a bad bargain¹³ when I attempt¹⁴ to buy anything.
- 乙. 我確實不喜歡, 真是討厭煞人的. 並且當我要想買一點東西的時候, 我總是吃虧的.
- A. Are you going downtown¹⁵ right away¹⁶? Just wait a bit. I'll get through¹⁷ this work in a minute and I'll go with you.
- 甲. 你立刻就要上街去麼? 請你稍等一下. 我馬上把這工作做好, 和你一起去.
- B. Thanks awfully¹⁸; I'm sorry to put you about¹⁹.
- 乙. 多謝你; 對不起打擾了你.
- A. Not a bit. It will do me good to stretch my legs²⁰, after being cooped up²¹ here all the morning.
- 甲. 沒有的事. 整個早晨居在這裏之後, 出去走一下是很有益的.

【註】 1. the New Year season, 在新年之前或後的期間。 2. is... upon us, 到了; 來了 (指季節而言)。 3. in full swing, 積極進行。 4. that reminds me=that puts me in mind, 這使我想起。 5. it's up to me=it's my duty; I must, 我應該。 6. lay in, 備好。 7. a stock of, 一批。 8. seasonable goods, 應時的貨品。 9. run out of, 短少; 賣完。 10. No time like the present, 現在是最適當的時候。 11. bore... to death, 討厭煞... 12. invariably (invariably), 始終如一的。 13. make a bad bargain ('be:gin = buy things dearly, 以高價買物。 14. attempt (e'tempt), 要想。 15. downtown, 熱鬧街; 領裏。 16. right away, 立即。 17. get through = finish, 做完。 18. Thanks awfully = Thank you very much. 19. put... about, 煩惱...; 打擾... 20. to stretch my legs = to walk about, 走一下。 21. cooped up, 籠居。

(2) GARDENING 園藝

A. I think I shall go in for a bit of¹ gardening² this spring. 甲. 今年春天我想幹一點園藝。

B. I did not think that was very much in your line³. What's making you take that up⁴? 乙. 我以為你是不大幹這種事的。什麼會使你幹起園藝來的呢?

A. Oh, it's nothing new⁵ for me. I often used to⁶ potter about⁷ when I came home, but I dropped⁸ it because I had too much to do. 甲. 園藝對於我並不是什麼新鮮的玩意兒。當我回到家裏時, 我常常弄弄玩的, 可是因為事情太多就停止不幹了。

B. Well, it's not a bad idea⁹. Anyway it's a change after being downtown all day. 乙. 可是這並不壞呀。無論如何整天在城裏工作之後, 這亦是一種變換呀。

A. I suppose¹⁰ it's nothing in your line¹¹? 甲. 我想這不是你所擅長的吧?

B. No, flowers are all very well in their way¹², but I let the gardener¹³ look after¹⁴ mine¹⁵. 乙. 是的, 弄花草的確是很好的, 不過我把它委之於園丁罷了。

- 【註】 1. go in for a bit of, 幹一點。 2. gardening ('ga:dnɪŋ), 園藝。
 3. very much in your line, 你所常幹的; 你所擅長的。 4. take ... up, 從事... 5. nothing new = not a new thing, 不是新鮮的事。 6. used to, 慣於。 7. potter about = work in a very leisurely ('leɪzəli) way, 優閒而爲之; doing only a little at a time, 偶或爲之。 8. dropped (drɒpt) = gave up, 放棄; 停止。 9. not a bad idea, 不壞。 10. suppose (sə'pəʊz), 料想; 以爲。 11. nothing in your line = not in your line。 12. are all very well in their way = are good enough (or interesting) too, 也是很好的。
 13. gardener 園丁。 14 look after, 照顧; 收拾。 15. mine = my flowers.

(3) NEW SUITS 新衣

- A. How do you like¹ my new suit²? Do you think this style³ suits⁴ me?
 甲. 你以爲我的新衣服怎樣? 你想這種式樣配我麼?
- B. Yes, I think it suits you very well. How did you manage⁵ to pick up⁶ such a nice piece of cloth⁷?
 乙. 是的, 我想這很配你。你怎樣設法找到這樣好的衣料的呢?
- A. Oh, I've had it by me⁸ for some time and I thought I had better⁹ use it up¹⁰.
 甲. 噢, 它在我手邊已有好久了, 我想還是把它做掉了吧。
- B. I wish I had a piece like it. I am almost out of clothes¹¹ and they are awfully¹² dear now-a-days¹³, aren't they?
 乙. 我也很想要像這樣的一塊衣料。我差不多沒有衣服穿了, 而且目前衣服又貴得可以, 可不是麼?
- A. No mistakes about that. There's such a run on cloth¹⁴ in Europe that the factories can't keep up with¹⁵ outside orders¹⁶.
 甲. 一點不錯。現在歐洲衣料的需要是非常大, 所以工廠都不能夠應付海外的定貨。
- B. Well, I suppose I'll have to
 乙. 那麼, 我想我只好暫

put up¹⁷ with my old ones a little longer, that's all¹⁸. 時穿穿舊衣服了。

【註】 1. How do you like . . . 你以爲 . . . 怎樣? 2. suit, *sju:t*, 一套衣服(名詞). 3. style, 式樣. 4. suits, 適合; 配(動詞). 5. manage (*'meni:dʒ*), 設法. 6. pick up, 選中. 7. a . . . piece of cloth, 一塊衣料. 注意 "a piece of". 8. by me, 在我手邊. 9. had better, 最好. 10. use . . . up, 用掉 . . . 11. out of clothes, 沒有衣服 ("cloth" 之複數爲 "cloths", 而 "clothes" 則作「衣服」解). 12. awfully (*'ɔ:fulli*) = very (會話用語). 13. nowadays (*'naʊdeiz*), 近來; 目前. 14. there's such a run on cloth, 衣料的需要是非常的大 (run=demand 需要). 15. keep up with, 與 . . . 並行. 16. outside orders, 外國的定貨. 17. put up, 忍受. 18. that's all, 僅此而已 (意即此外別無他法).

(4) THE STRING OF A PARCEL 一條打包的繩子

- A. The string of your parcel is coming undone¹. Hadn't you better tie it up again? 甲. 你的包裹的繩子快要解散了. 你最好把它再包紮一下.
- B. Yes, perhaps I had². I'm not very good at³ this sort of thing. Would you mind⁴ seeing what you can do with⁵ it? 乙. 是的, 還是包紮一下吧. 我不大善於做這種事. 請你把它弄弄看好麼?
- A. Let me have a try⁶. Do you happen⁷ to have any stronger string than this? This will soon give way⁸. 甲. 讓我試試看. 你有沒有帶着比這根更堅固的繩子? 這根是就要斷的.
- B. I usually have some in this box I keep for odds and ends⁹. Here you are¹⁰. 乙. 我放零碎東西的這匣子裏常是有幾根的. 就在這裏.
- A. That's better. I'll put it round double to make sure¹¹. 甲. 這比較好一點. 爲堅固起見, 我把它捆了兩圈.
- B. Thanks, that's fine. The par. 乙. 謝謝, 這好極了, 現

cel is now fit to be seen¹² as
well as easier to carry.

在這包裹看起來既好
看，帶起來也便當。

【註】 1. coming undone, 將要解散。 2. perhaps I had - perhaps I had better tie it up again. 3. good at, 善於；精於。 4. would you mind..., 你可否... 5. seeing what you can do with..., 盡你的力弄... 6. have a try, 試一下看。 7. Do you happen ('hæpən), 你適巧... 8. give away = break, 斷壞。 9. odds and ends ('ædzənd'endz), 零碎東西。 10. here you are (俗語) = here (or there), it is, 將物件交給他人時的用語。 11. put it round double, 把它捆兩圈。 12. to make sure, 爲安全計；爲堅固計。 13. fit to be seen, 適於觀看(意即好看)。

(5) YOU CAN'T GO BY APPEARANCES 不能以貌取人

A. See that man over there. To look at him, one wouldn't think he is well-off¹, would you?²

甲. 你看在那邊的那個人。粗看起來，誰也不會當他是富裕的，你以爲對嗎？

B. His appearance³ is nothing to be boast of⁴. I should take him for⁵ quite a poor man.

乙. 他的外貌是毫無足道的。我當他是個窮人哩。

A. He is better off than either you or I. I only wish I had half his income⁶.

甲. 他要比你我有錢的多呢。我只要能有的收入的一半也夠了。

B. You can't always go by appearances⁷, can you⁸? How did he get hold of⁹ so much money?

乙. 人是不能以貌取的。他怎樣得到這許多錢的呢？

A. No one knows exactly, but I have heard it whispered¹⁰ that it was something shady¹¹.

甲. 誰也不確實知道，可是我曾聽見人家暗地裏說，那是不大光明的。

B. Perhaps that has something to do with¹² his not dressing up¹³. It must have got on his mind¹⁴.

乙. 他的不加修飾亦許和這事有點關係。他一定感到慚愧。

【註】 1. well off ('welɔ:f) = in good circumstances, 處境甚佳; 寬裕.
 2. would you? 係加強語意之片語. 3. appearance ('əpiərəns), 外觀; 外貌.
 4. nothing to be boast of. 毫無足誇耀的 (boast of, 以...自負).
 5. take...for, 當...是; 視...為. 6. half his income = one half of his income, 他的收入的一半. 7. go by appearances = form one's judgement by appearance, 以外貌判斷; 以貌取人. 8. can you? 與上面之 "would you?" 作用同. 9. get hold of = obtain, 獲得. 10. whispered ('hwɪspəd), 耳語; 竊竊而言. 11. shady ('seɪdi), 可疑的; 曖昧的. 12. has something to do with, 與...有關. 13. dressing up, 修飾. 14. got on his mind = become ashamed about it, 感到慚愧.

(6) SHOES WORN OUT 穿破的皮鞋

- A. Where were you off to¹ when I saw you yesterday?
 B. Only to the shoemaker's¹. My shoes suddenly began to let in² the water.
 A. That reminds³ me. I must see about⁴ some⁵ too. Can't stand⁵ wet feet⁷, you know.
 B. I thought I should have to go in for⁸ some new ones. My old ones seemed just about done for⁹.
 A. Mine also seem pretty well¹⁰ worn out¹¹. But they may stand soling¹² and heeling¹³ again.
 B. I don't like ready-made¹⁴ things, do you? They never seem to fit well.
 A. No; I prefer¹⁵ them made to
- 甲. 我昨天看見你的時候, 你往那裏去?
 乙. 到皮鞋店去, 我的皮鞋忽然漏起水來了.
 甲. 這使我想起來了. 我的皮鞋亦得修理了. 腳弄濕是怪不好過的.
 乙. 我想我該去買新皮鞋了. 我的舊皮鞋似乎不能再穿了.
 甲. 我的皮鞋也似乎不能再穿了, 可是還可以裝上鞋底和鞋跟.
 乙. 我不喜歡現成皮鞋, 你呢? 它們總不會是剛巧合腳的.
 甲. 是的; 所以我喜歡定

measure¹⁶, unless I am tied for
time¹⁷ and can't wait.

製, 除非我急得不能
等待。

【註】 1. off to, 往...去。 2. let in, 漏入。 3. reminds (ri'maɪndz), 使想起。 4. see about, 考慮; 處置。 5. some, 指皮鞋。 6. stand, 忍受。 7. wet feet, 腳被雨水等弄濕。 8. go in for, 去買。 9. just about done for, 就要沒有用了。 10. pretty well=quite, 十分的。 11. worn out, 損壞。 12. soling ('soliŋ), 裝鞋底。 13. heeling ('hi:liŋ), 裝鞋跟。 14. ready-made, 現成的; 製就的。 15. prefer, 寧喜。 16. made to measure, 定製。 17. tied for time=hard up for time; have little leisure, 無暇。

(7) TAKING PICTURES 拍照

- A. How did those pictures you took¹ the other day² turn out³? 甲. 前幾天你拍的照片成績怎樣?
- B. Not half bad⁴, in fact⁵ better than I expected⁶. 乙. 並不怎樣壞, 實際上比我所預期的要好。
- A. You ought to try your hand at⁷ enlarging⁸ some of them. 甲. 你該把其中幾張放大一下。
- B. Do you really think they are worth while⁹? Besides, you know I'm not very good at¹⁰ retouching¹¹. 乙. 你真的以為它們是值得的麼? 而且你得知道我是不大善於修潤的。
- A. Never mind that. Just keep at it¹². You can't do anything unless you stick to it¹³. 甲. 不要去管它。繼續幹下去好了。除非你堅持幹去, 什麼事都做不成的。
- B. Well, I'll take your tip¹⁴. I don't like to be obliged to¹⁵ give in¹⁶. 乙. 好, 我就聽你的話吧。我是不喜歡退讓的。

【註】 1. those pictures you took, 你所拍的照片 (to take a picture, 拍照)。 2. the other day, 前幾天的某日。 3. turn out, 成爲; 結果。 4. not half bad=rather good, 很佳。 5. in fact, 實際上; 實在。 6. expect¹ (eks'pektɪd), 期望。 7. try your hand at, 嘗試一下。 8. enlarging ('en'lɑ:dʒɪŋ), 放大 (指照片)。 9. worth while, 值得。 10. good

at, 善於。 11. retouching (ri'tatʃɪŋ), 潤色; 修飾。 12. keep at it, 繼續從事。 13. stick to it=put up with, 堅持到底。 14. tip=advice, 忠言; suggestion, 建議。 15. to be oblig'd to, 不得不; 迫於。 16. give in, 屈服; 退讓。

(8) A 'PHONE OUT OF ORDER 電話損壞

- A. I tried several times to get you on the 'phone¹ this morning, but there was never any answer, so I had to give it up². I thought you must be out.
- 甲. 今天早晨我打了幾次電話給你, 可是一點沒有回答, 所以我只得作罷了。我想你一定出去了。
- B. Oh, yes. I'm awfully sorry. I've had no end of trouble³ over it.⁴ Fact⁵ is, it was out of order⁶.
- 乙. 是的。真對不起你。我爲了電話煩惱極了。事實是, 電話弄壞了。
- A. You must have been put out⁷ a great deal. Haven't you had it seen to⁸?
- 甲. 你一定感到極大的不便吧。你沒有叫人修理麼?
- B. Well, yes. But you see I couldn't very well ring up⁹ Central¹⁰ about it. And on top of that¹¹, as luck would have it¹², my office boy did not turn up¹³ this morning, and I had to go myself to headquarters¹⁴ to see about it.
- 乙. 雖是想這麼辦, 可是我不能夠搖電話到電話局總叫他們來修理呀。並且不幸辦公室的僕歐今晨沒有來, 我只好自己到電話總局去叫他們來修理。
- A. I say¹⁵, you had your hands pretty full¹⁶, didn't you? What was the matter with the boy?
- 甲. 啊呀, 你不是忙煞了麼? 那個僕歐怎樣了?
- B. He's down with¹⁷ a cold. He tried to get me on the 'phone
- 乙. 他傷風而睡倒了。他 also 想打電話給我, 不

too, but of course there was
nothing doing¹⁸.

過那當然是毫無用處
的。

【註】 1. get you on the 'phone (four), 和你通電話。 2. give it up, 放棄; 停止。 3. no end of trouble=much trouble, 極多之煩惱。 4. it, 指電話。 5. fact, 事實 (其前有定冠詞 "the")。 6. out of order, 損壞。 7. put out=inconvenienced, 爲之感到不便。 8. had it seen to=had it attended to, 叫人來修理。 9. ring up, 接電話到... 10. Central ('sentral), 電話總局。 11. on top of that, 加之; 並且。 12. as luck would have it=unfortunately, 不幸 (此語又可作 "fortunately" (僥倖) 解, 須看地方而定)。 13. turn up=come, 來; appear 出現。 14. headquarters ('hed'kwɔ:təz, 即 Central。 15. I say, 啊喲 (感嘆語)。 16. had your hands pretty full, 非常忙。 17. down with, 臥病牀上。 18. nothing doing=quite useless, 毫無用處。

(9) A MISUNDERSTANDING 誤會

- A. I hear X. and Y. fell out¹ the other day. What was the row² about?
甲. 聽說 X 和 Y 前幾天爭吵過。爲了什麼呀?
- B. Only a misunderstanding³—nothing to speak of⁴. X., as you know, is rather hasty⁵ and apt to⁶ jump to conclusions⁷.
乙. 不過是一種誤會—毫無足道的。你也知道, X 是怪性急而易於速斷的。
- A. I have noticed that. He flies into a rage⁸ over the merest trifle⁹.
甲. 這也我曾注意到。爲了極瑣屑的事, 他就會發怒。
- B. He ought to break himself of¹⁰ that. Too bad, because he is really good at heart¹¹.
乙. 他該把這種惡習戒除。因爲他心地很好, 所以更是可惜。
- A. Well, have they made it up¹², then?
甲. 那麼他們有和解了麼?
- B. Oh, yes. It was only a storm in a tea-cup¹³ after all. X.
乙. 是的。畢竟那不過極小的風波吧了。X 慊

apologized¹⁴ handsomely¹⁵ and
Y. was all smiles¹⁶.

慨地道歉了，Y 也就
滿面笑容了。

A. That's one good point¹⁷ about
X. It is easy to get round¹⁸
him once¹⁹ he calms down²⁰.

甲. 這就是 X 的好處。他
一鎮定下來，就容易
對付了。

【註】 1. fell out=quarrelled, 爭論。 2. row (rou =dispute; quarrel, 爭吵。 3. misunderstanding ('misandis'tending, 誤會。 4. nothing to speak of, 無足道的。 5. hasty ('heisti, 心急的。 6. apt to, 易於。 7. jump to conclusions, 迅速地推斷。 8. flies into a rage, 發怒。 9. merest trifle ('traifl), 極微薄的東西。 10. break himself of, 戒除。 11. at heart, 在心中。 12. made it up=reconciled, 和解。 13. a storm in a tea cup=great excitement over a small matter, 對細小之事的大騷亂。 14. apologized (ə'pələdʒaɪzd), 道歉; 謝罪。 15. handsomely ('haensəmli, 慷慨的; 大量的。 16. all smiles=very pleased, 甚是快意。 17. good point, 好的地方。 18. get round, 操縱。 19. once=as soon as, 一經; if only, 只要。 20. calms down, 鎮定。

(10) A POOR HAND AT SPEECHES 不善於演說者

A. Do you mind going over¹ this
speech with me? I should like
to get you to touch up² the
weak places³.

甲. 你給我練習這篇演說
好麼? 我要請你校正
其中不好的地方。

B. Let's have a look⁴. Are you
going to memorize it? . . .
Well, it's not half bad.

乙. 讓我看一下。你想把
它背熟麼? — 這篇並
不壞呀。

A. Thanks. Most of it I shall
learn by heart⁵ I think, with
just a few notes to help me
along.

甲. 謝謝。我想把其中大
部分背熟，再拿少許
的筆記作為幫助。

B. I see. Personally⁶ I am rather
a poor hand at⁷ speeches. I
never can make head or tail of⁸
my notes.

乙. 原來如此。我個人是
不善於演說的。我始
終弄不清楚自己的筆
記。

- A. Embarrassing⁹, isn't it, when you get mixed up¹⁰ like that? And it must be trying¹¹ to the audience¹² too.
- B. You are right. My last attempt¹³ was an awful frost¹⁴. I made such a hash of¹⁵ it that I only wished for the floor to open up and swallow me.
- 甲. 這樣糾纏不清, 不是很尷尬麼? 而且這對於聽衆也一定是難堪的。
- 乙. 對啦。我上次的演說是大失敗。我把它弄得那麼糟糕, 假使有洞我一定鑽進去了。

【註】 1. going over = rehearsing, 練習。 2. touch up 修正; 訂正。 3. weak places, 弱點。 4. Let's have a look = Let me see, 讓我看。 5. learn by heart, 背熟。 6. Personally ('peɪsnəli, 就我個人而言。 7. a poor hand at..., 不善於...之人。 8. make head or tail of, 茫無頭緒; 弄不清楚。 9. Embarrassing (im'beərəsɪŋ), 困惑的。 10. get mixed up = get confused, 昏亂。 11. trying, 難堪的。 12. audience ('ɔ:diəns), 聽衆; 觀衆。 13. attempt (ə'tempt), 嘗試 (指演說)。 14. frost (frost), (個) = failure, 失敗。 15. made... a hash of..., 使...糟糕。

(11) THE LITTLE THEATRE 小劇場

- A. I saw you coming out of the Little Theater the other night¹. I did not know you went in for² that sort of thing.
- B. Oh, yes, once in a while³—not that I set up to be⁴ a high-brow⁵ you know.
- A. Well, Shanghai is nothing⁶ if not up-to-date⁷; but I wonder if⁸ the Little Theater has come to stay⁹?
- 甲. 前幾天晚上我看見你從小劇場出來。我沒有知道你是有這種嗜好的。
- 乙. 噢, 是的, 我不時到那邊去的一可是並非自以爲是時髦人物而去的。
- 甲. 如沒有新式的玩意兒也不算是上海了; 可我不知道那小劇場是否會存在下去?