

杜子华英语成功学电影系列

ALL IT TAKES IS PRACTICE



杜子华 英语大课堂

*Something
to Talk About*

谈情说爱



高等教育出版社
HIGHER EDUCATION PRESS

自序

回忆我自己学习英语的过程。那是一个由无数件小事、无数次小努力相互衔接而最终到达目的地的过程。其中包括很多的阅读、晚上钻在被窝里狂听、大量看英语电影、逮住会说英语的人就练英语口语，并能解决英语学习过程中的一个个或大或小的问题。我第一次去美国就没有什么语言障碍，在与老外的交流中也没有文化、生活、风俗习惯方面的隔阂，我想这要归功于我看了大量的美国电影以及同西方人尽可能多的接触。

我大学毕业后到青岛当老师时，看了大量的英语电影。当我沉浸在电影的故事中的时候，我常常忘记自己是在学习英语，但回想起来那个时候我学到了最地道的英语。在无意识的过程中，我接受了大量地道、富有时代气息的美国语言，了解了美国人的生活方式、思维模式、价值观、风俗习惯等。

1989年在我去北京外国语大学读翻译专业研究生之前，我已经看了很多电影并且能看得明白。因此，我就和北外的同学在看英语电影时开玩笑说：“看不懂问我就行了。”结果没想到，我听懂的地方没有人问，他们问的地方恰巧是我也听不懂的。我意识到我还需要下更多工夫来看英文电影，我就找了三个美国人辅导我看电影，每一句话都解释到我完全听懂为止。此后，当有人再问我电影中的对白时，我就立刻从短语和俗语的角度，从文化、思维、生活、风俗习惯的角度解释得一清二楚。同学们觉得我果然水平不凡。但在这种“不凡”背后却是我真正做到了狂看英语电影。

因为这些经历，所以我常说，不为而为，功在其外和无心插柳柳成荫对英语学习亦是如此。一个人整天拿着一本听力书几盒听力磁带是打不开视野的。不打开视野就无法大量接触英语，也就无法真正学好英语。学习英语在跳出语言知识本身时，就会接触到一个海阔天空、精彩纷呈的真实世界。进入这个世界并能融入其中，就能学好英语。

我在教托福听力时，有一个题目就曾谈到这个观点：要了解一个国家，最好的方法就是看这个国家的电影。我自己的做法证明了这一点，并且我在多年教授英语的过程中倡导这一做法。在国内还有一种现象：那些把英语学得很地道的人，要么是有大量机会接触外国人，要么是看过大量的英语电影，即有大量接触真实英语的机会，这也证明了上述观点。

其实，我国的大学都为英语专业学生开设英语视听课。我在北外读书时，系里还给本科生设置英语电影视听课。但看电影学英语作为一种非常有效的学英语方法，并没有获得应有的重视和更广泛的应用。我在十多年前就想开设电影班，使“通过电影学英语”的方法获得普及，但一直到1996年，我才在北京新东方学校开设了第一个电影班。这在中国业余英语培训机构中是首例。课程推出后，效果非常显著，引领了大众通过电影学英语的时尚潮流。

我教过一个酷爱《阿甘正传》的学生，他一直看阿甘看到自己的语言、姿势、眼神、表情和阿甘一模一样。他在课堂上模仿阿甘，同学们分不清是阿甘模仿他，还是他模仿阿甘。可能阿甘的声音不是世界上最美妙的声音，但每个人都可以在电影中找到自己最喜欢的声音去模仿。

看电影学英语成为时尚当然不仅仅是因为在电影中每个人都能找到自己最喜欢的声音，它还拥有其他媒介不可取代的优势。在中国这样的非英语国家，学习英语最缺乏的就是真实的英语语言环境。电影可以做到将最贴近生活的真实世界加以浓缩反映，电影让你接触西方国家的聚会、恋爱、婚姻、商业、工作、休闲、校园、超市、银行、医院……英语电影是西方社会文化、思想、生活的百科全书。在所有这些环境和场合中，英语语言被灵活地使用，英语电影是英语口语的“万花筒”。

我当年沉浸在英语电影中的时光，是我学习英语最快乐的记忆之一。我没有像很多学英语的人那样觉得学英语非常

艰难并在内心充满恐惧感，我学习英语无论是读英文小说、听英文广播、还是看英文电影，都觉得是极有趣的事情。事实上，当一个人着迷地泡在英语电影世界中并再从这个世界中走出来时，他已经学会了英语口语，有很棒的听力，以及对西方文化、思想、生活的理解。

随着中国家庭VCD、DVD、电视视频点播等媒介方式的普及，对英语学习来说，英语电影可能正在日益具有更重要的意义。首先，电影会打破现有的英语学习框架，这种新颖实用、生动活泼、寓教于乐的方式，会大大补充中国学英语的环境不足。第二，电影可能为中国人指出了一条不用到国外就能掌握地道英语口语的路。另外，对一些不经常用英语的人来说，一段时间不接触英语就会有很大陌生感，经常听、看英语电影是保持英语能力的好方法。（当然，也可以看英语书、英语杂志和报纸。）

现在，关于英语电影的书已经很多了，但目前还没有用简明易懂的英语语言来讲解的“通过电影学英语”的书籍。我选择这样一种方式来阐释英语电影，是希望读者尽早进入全英语环境，就像我在学英语时很早就使用英英字典一样。《杜子华英语成功学电影系列》选择的电影都是生活片，语言简练实用。我也力图用简洁地道的英语来为这些电影做注解，帮助读者进入“英语思维状态”。同时，因为我自己教过每一部电影无数次，特别了解中国学生的弱项，因此对单词、短语、俗语、文化等的注释也极有针对性。

我特别想指出的是，读者在看英语电影时，应力求应用科学合理的方法以达到最佳效果。我在《杜子华英语成功学》中提出的六大原则：简单原则、量的原则、重复原则、模仿原则、突击原则、兴趣原则，同样适用于看电影学英语的过程。

看电影学英语尤其要遵循兴趣原则。电影捕捉了生活中很具代表性的各种场景并进行了艺术加工，尽管这样，每个

人的爱好还是不同的，不可能对每部片子都感兴趣。根据自己的口味选择自己喜欢的电影，这样看得越多兴趣就会越浓，就会慢慢把英语学习引向深入。兴趣是学好英语的最好老师。

此外，模仿原则也非常重要。中国人说英语、写英语总带着中国人的语言结构、思维、文化、生活、价值取向，造成“中国味英语”的盛行。这个问题表现在很多方面，比如我在《杜子华英语成功学》中写到的问题，为什么中国人听中国人说英语能听懂，听外国人说就听不懂；看中国的英文报纸易懂，但看国外原版的英文报纸难懂？在看英语电影时模仿剧中人物的句法结构、发音、习语、表达思想的方式等等，模仿多了自然就能慢慢克服英语不地道的问题。

“通过电影学英语”是一种行之有效的办法，这已在我多年的英语教学实践中得到验证。学英语贵在把英语学“活”，而通过英语电影所学到的英语是“活的英语”。本系列读物旨在给广大读者，尤其是大专院校学生提供一套学习“活的英语”的“活的教材”。

这套书很快就要和读者见面了，在此，我要感谢使我能写出这套书的美国教师 Phebe Ham、加拿大朋友 Ira Cohen 夫妇，Stanley Starkman 夫妇和澳大利亚教师 Samantha Kierath 等。

还应感谢高等教育出版社的领导和同仁，他们的支持和大力帮助使得这套书能早日与读者见面。

杜子华
2003年6月

人物介绍

Grace	Eddie 的妻子, Caroline 的母亲
Eddie	Grace 的丈夫, Caroline 的父亲
Mr. King	Grace 的父亲, 驯马农场的主人
Georgia	Grace 的母亲
Caroline	Grace 和 Eddie 的女儿
EmmaRae	Grace 的妹妹
Hank	驯马农场的工人, 驯马师

剧情简介

这是一部现实生活片, 讲述了一个发生在驯马农场的故事。当 Grace (朱丽亚·罗伯茨饰) 发现她的丈夫 Eddie (丹尼斯·奎德饰) 有外遇时, 她陷入了极大的矛盾中。Grace 要处理好家庭的关系, 又要管好她的家族产业——驯马农场。 如何处理好与丈夫、孩子、父母、朋友以及事业之间的关系, 成为她面临的主要问题。另外, 电影讲述关于驯马和赛马的故事时, 在决定应由谁骑哪一匹马参加比赛的过程中, 刻画了每个人的性格特点, 表现出人物之间的利害关系。

影片刻画的每个人物都个性鲜明, 有极强的感染力。电影探讨了人们在现实生活中应如何面对各种问题以及处理生活中危机的能力。

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

谈情说爱



[Alarm buzzes]

Grace: Oh, my God. (screaming)

Eddie: Oh, Grace, don't do that.

Grace: Make a noise or something. My God.

Eddie: So what's on the docket(1) for today?

Grace: Daddy is coming out to the barn(2) and he wants to have a meeting with me and Hank about this Grand Prix(3).

Eddie: What for?

Grace: He just likes to grind us(4) every year about this time and it makes him feel in control.

Eddie: Where's the doodlebug?

Grace: She'd better be getting dressed. Caroline, what are you doing?

Caroline: Mom, am I going to ride today?

Grace: Oh, sweetie(5).

Eddie: Where have you been all night?

Caroline: Sleeping. Mom, am I going to ride?

Grace: Yeah, Baby, if we have time. Please go, go, go now, go finish getting ready.

Eddie: Go, go, go.

Grace: Quick. Quick.

Grace: Shit(6)! I'm sorry. I don't know what's wrong with me.

Caroline: You did it again.

Grace: We'll go out today and find you a new mother.

Grace: Harry, take the trailer(7) over to Mack's. Pick up(8) Joe's Whimsy(9) around 4:30. Sheila will ride over here

(1) **On the docket:** a docket is a list of legal cases prepared for a court.

Eddie is asking what Grace is going to do today.

(2) **Barn:** a big farm building used to house animals as well as store animal feed and farm equipment.

(3) **Grand Prix :** a very high-level horse riding competition.

(4) **Grind us :** put pressure on us; make us work harder.

(5) **Sweetie:** a cute name for somebody you love.

(6) **Shit:** a swearword.

(7) **Trailer:** a vehicle to transport something. In this case, it refers to horses.

(8) **Pick up:** collect.

(9) **Joe's Whimsy:** the name of a horse.

with you and help you get squared away(1). Tell Hank before you go so he can be here.

Harry: No problem.

Caroline: Good boy. Good boy.

Mr. King: Caught you(2)! Are you trying to bribe old Possum(3)?

Caroline: Hello, Grandpa.

Mr. King: It will make Miss Lily jealous and she's going to dump you off in the ring(4). Now, listen to me. You got to save the treats(5) for the horse you gonna ride.

Caroline: Please, let me. I don't want to ride a pony. I want to ride a horse. Hank says I'm big enough.

Mr. King: Honey. Hold on a minute. First of all, you can win on Miss Lily, and you are going to win on Miss Lily. Caught you!

Caroline: See, how strong my legs are?

Mr. King: Honey(6). I have got to put you down. Have mercy on an old man. Listen to me, you've got to learn to recognize your limitations(7).

Caroline: Gramps, why? I'm ready, I've been practicing. I know I can do it.

Mr. King: You have to take this up with your momma(8). Now, have you done that?

Caroline: You think I'm here begging you until she told me yes. Just put me on that horse and I'll win the championship. I promise. And how come everybody thinks they got to tell me when I'm ready? I am supposed to tell you when I'm ready, and I'm about running out of patience(9) with you people.

- (1) **Get squared away:** prepare everything; make sure everything is ready.
- (2) **Caught you:** Mr. King is trying to surprise Caroline.
- (3) **Bribe old Possum:** make the horse her friend by giving it something special to eat.
- (4) **She... dump you off in the ring:** The horse will throw Caroline on to the ground while she is riding her. 把 Caroline 从马上摔下来。
- (5) **Treats:** special food used to reward animals and children for good behaviour. For example, sugar cubes, carrots, chocolates.
- (6) **Honey:** a special name for somebody you love. Like “sweetie”.
- (7) **Recognize your limitations:** know what you can and can't do; realize the limits of your abilities.
- (8) **Take this up with your momma:** talk about this issue with your mother; discuss the problem with your mother.
- (9) **Running out of patience:** Caroline is not prepared to be patient much more. She thinks she has waited long enough to ride a horse.

Mr. King: Don't get yourself all worked up(1). Help Dub, earn your keep(2) around here. I've got to talk to you mama now. Hey, Hank, how's it going?

Hank: Great.

Mr. King: Good. Grace needs to see you.

Hank: Now?

Mr. King: No. I've got to see her for a minute, after that, all right?

Hank: Yes, sir.

Grace: Hi, daddy.

Mr. King: All right. Have a Heart went on the market last week. You know the one in California, Jamie Johnson's horse? He won the champion Hampton Classic in September.

Grace: I know the horse. How much is he asking?

Mr. King: \$150,000.

Grace: What's wrong with him(3)?

Mr. King: Nothing. Jamie's selling because of his divorce. Anyway I bought him.

Grace: You did what?

Mr. King: I've got a feeling about him, Grace. I think it's going to be his year(4). He's got Grand Prix champion written all over him(5). I'm going to ride him.

Grace: But daddy, without even discussing it with us?

Mr. King: There's nothing to discuss.

Grace: What about Ransom? Hank is...

Caroline: Mom, Dub said I could ride Possum.

Grace: Honey, not now. In a minute, sweetie.

- (1) **Don't get ...worked up:** don't get angry; calm down.
- (2) **Earn your keep:** work to repay your living expenses; do your chores. A person's "keep" is her food, clothing and housing.



- (3) **What's wrong with him:** If the horse is very good, it should be expensive. Grace thinks \$150,000 is a low price for the horse so she suspects there is a problem with it.
- (4) **It's going to be his year:** This year the horse will win; the horse is in its best condition.
- (5) **Written all over him:** it is obvious; it is clear. Mr King thinks the horse is clearly a champion. He has no doubt about it.

Mr. King: Ransom isn't ready. I don't have the same feeling about Ransom.

Grace: So, you are going to ride him against Hank and Ransom?

Mr. King: No, we won't enter Ransom, not this year. He can wait another year.

Grace: Daddy, Hank will quit.

Mr. King: Well, here's a good opportunity for you to utilize your people skills(1) to make sure he doesn't. You hear me? You understand?

Grace: You can't do this. It's not fair.

Mr. King: Well, it's done. Now, roll with it(2).

Grace: Goddamn, shit, son of bitch(3)!

Mr. King: You watch that mouth(4) now. She can see you now Hank.

Hank: Goddamn it. I quit. I don't need this shit.

Grace: Hank, wait.

Hank: I wish the son of a bitch would die in a fiery car crash(5).

Grace: I know, Hank. Get in line(6). Just listen.

Hank: No, you listen. I am not gonna sit by while the son of a bitch ruins my career. This is Ransom's year. This is it.

Grace: Please just give me some time. Maybe I can make him see reason.

Hank: Like hell.

Grace: You can't do this to me.

Emma Rae: Hey, Grace. Is daddy in there?

Grace: No.

Emma Rae: Wait up.

Grace: I have to go a charity league(7). Do you know about this, Emma Rae?

- (1) **Utilize your people skills:** use your ability to understand people and work well with them. Mr King is using management jargon to make fun of Grace.
- (2) **Roll with it:** go with the flow; accept the decision; don't go against his direction.
- (3) **Goddamn, shit, son of a bitch:** These are all mild swear words. They show Grace is frustrated and angry.
- (4) **Watch that mouth:** Don't use swear words. By telling her not to swear, Mr. King is treating Grace like a child. 说话小心点。
- (5) **A fiery car crash:** a car crash with big flames. Hank is angry at Mr. King so he wishes the man would die a painful death.
- (6) **Get in line:** calm down; do what is asked of you.
- (7) **Charity league:** a group of people who raise money for community projects. For example, housing for disabled people.

Emma Rae: What? About this horse thing?

Grace: Thanks for telling me.

Emma Rae: Hey. Check your machine(1), Grace. Grace, wait.

Grace: God, help me.

Caroline: I can't believe this.

[At charity league's meeting]

Lady1: And now on to the business of our centennial cookbook(2). I know we all want this to be our best ever. So I'll ask our committee chairman to bring us up to date.
Grace.

Grace: Right. Deadline for recipe submissions(3) is the second. If you want to substitute vegetable shortening wherever it says bacon grease or lard, you might want to think about that. Now Nell McGeyhey asks me to mention that because her husband is recovering from a triple bypass(4) right now. Lucy is going to take over for me until after the Grand Prix and that's it.

Lady2: Names.

Grace: Oh, right. The committee thinks that... Well, we have looked at a lot of other cookbooks. We have always been listed with our married names(5) under the recipes, and frankly, the practice of excluding our first names looked out-dated. So I think that we should list our names first, middle, and last(6). That's all.

Lady3: I always thought the way it was looked quaint(7).

Lady4: It doesn't look quaint, Edna. It looks like antiquated(8).

Lady5: What about the tradition?

Lady6: What I want to know is if my name isn't in here as Mrs. Franklin J. Caldwell the Third, then how the hell is anybody going to know who I am? I mean, Barbara Nell Caldwell... Who's that?

- (1) **Check your machine:** check the messages on your answering machine. Emma Rae is saying that she left a message on Grace's answering machine telling her what was happening.
- (2) **Centennial cookbook:** Charity groups sometimes make cookbooks to raise money for their projects. This cookbook will mark the 100th anniversary of the group's founding so it must be special.
- (3) **Deadline for recipe submissions:** The last day people can submit recipes to be included in the cookbook.
- (4) **Triple bypass:** a very serious heart operation.
- (5) **Married names:** When a woman gets married she usually adopts her husband's family name. This becomes her "married name". For example, if Jane Smith marries John Brown, her "married name" would be Jane Brown. Some women do not adopt their husband's family name because they want to keep their independent identity.
- (6) **First, middle and last:** Most people have three names. For example, Melanie Jane Smith. The first name, Melanie, is the name your friends and colleagues call you. The middle name is not used very often. Parents sometimes give their children a middle name in honor of a family member or special friend. Last names are family names.
- (7) **Quaint:** old-fashioned in an attractive or pleasing way.
- (8) **Antiquated:** old-fashioned; not modern.