

好英文
精品丛书

Speak like a Native

(美) Michael Knapp 著
Gracelynn Knapp 译

彻底杜绝
中式英语
征服外国人的
口语能力

在中国执教12年的美国老师
教你用最简单的表达和
最有效的步骤说出一口流利英文

全方位提高英语口语水平

方法和技巧讲解完全中英对照
英语口语和阅读水平同步

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Easy Steps to Becoming a Fluent English Speaker
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前言 Preface

Almost every day Chinese friends ask, “Michael, how can I improve my spoken English?” This book is my answer to the question. Usually when someone asks me for advice about speaking better English, I only have time for a short answer. I try to be as helpful as possible, but more time is needed. I hope the people who are still asking how to improve their English will read this book. If *you* want to speak better English, this book was written for you.

You may be asking, “Why isn’t this book written in Chinese only?” Well, for one thing, I’m an American and my English writing is much better than my Chinese writing. But, there’s another more important reason I wrote it in English. The purpose of this book is to help you improve your Spoken English. It’s really hard to improve English without some sort of English environment. When you read books in Chinese, your mind is in a Chinese environment. I recommend before you read the Chinese translation, try to read only the English. This book is written in English so you can enjoy the benefit of an English environment.

The stories and examples in this book are true and they are about real people, but in order to protect their identity, *some* of the names and places have been changed. Those left unchanged are used with permission.

This book is *not* an English *textbook*. It’s not intended to replace textbooks already being used in classes, especially reading books. If you can read and understand at least half of the contents of this book, I’m sure you’ve already studied English from lots of textbooks. Even though this is not a reading textbook, studying it will still be a good exercise for your reading ability. However, this book is about *spoken* English, not reading. The purpose of this book is not to teach you English. Its main function is to clearly show you *how* to quickly improve your spoken English. No, it’s not a textbook at all, but it *is* a book to help you use the knowledge you have already gained, through classes, books or other materials, to speedily become a fluent English communicator.

We’ve all heard the proverb of the poor hungry boy: *Give him a fish and he’ll be satisfied today. Teach him how to catch fish and he will never go hungry.* For many years English

textbooks have been giving you fish (English), sometimes very good fish. This book isn't designed to just give you fish. Instead, it will teach you how to catch your own fish, and to catch them much better and faster than ever before.

In my twelve plus years of teaching English in China, I've enjoyed watching thousands of students become better English speakers. I like to think that over these years in China I have also improved my teaching techniques. Some methods I've seen and tried have produced very little results. Others have helped many students learn to communicate more freely in English and improve very fast. The information in the book primarily comes from my personal experiences helping Chinese people improve their spoken English and sorting out the most effective ways to improve oral English skills, while eliminating the less helpful ways.

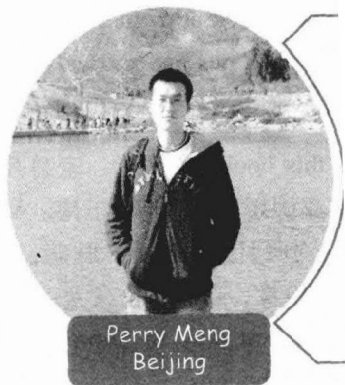
I've watched as some students progressed slowly while others have made amazing improvement. Many of the methods and techniques for improving Spoken English in this book are the result of my paying close attention to which ones have worked well and which ones have helped very little or not at all. When I teach, sometimes I use methods that are common among teachers, and other times I create my own way of teaching. Some things I tried, especially when I first came to China, didn't help much. Other methods have worked much better. I've carefully selected and put into this book those ideas which I have personally seen work. They are the ones that help lots of Chinese students make huge improvements in their English communication skills. I do not want you to waste time and energy on methods that produce little or no results. My hope is that after you try the methods in this book you will speak English fluently and confidently and that you will communicate in English so well that you will surprise even yourself!

How to use this book

This book is intended for your reading pleasure. As stated above, it's not a textbook and is not designed to replace textbooks. It is, however, written for the purpose of showing you how to improve your spoken English. Only buying this book will not help your English. Even reading it isn't enough. For marked improvement, you must actually DO the activities you read about. Don't simply read and expect magic. Read carefully and joyfully — do the things this book suggests and you'll experience amazing improvement.

This book contains a variety of features to benefit all kinds of readers. Recently I conducted a survey about how to improve spoken English. Many of the students who responded to the

survey are excellent English speakers, but unfortunately there's only enough space in this book for a few of their comments. Maybe in a future book I can publish more of these outstanding answers. The remarks by Chinese people are not coached, that is to say, they are original comments, in their own words. Therefore, their answers do not always represent my personal opinion, but I included them because I think you'll enjoy reading what other Chinese people think about improving oral English. These comments displayed throughout the book look like this:



I have never been satisfied with my oral English. I don't know why, but I feel nervous when I talk to native speakers. After one semester of Michael's class, this situation is improved.

我一直都对自己的英语口语不满意。我不知道为什么，每次和以英语为母语的人讲话时就紧张。在上了一个学期 Michael 的课以后，这种情况有所改善。

At the end of each chapter there are two small sections: (1) Questions for Discussion, and (2) Tips for Teachers. This last section is created for oral English teachers. These ideas have worked for me and I'm sure they will work as well for Chinese teachers and other foreign teachers. Teachers will see an improvement in their students' spoken English if they diligently carry out these tips.

The *Questions for Discussion* section is for the reader's own review. One of the best ways to achieve positive results from this book is for you and a friend — or several friends — to read it at the same time. After everyone has finished a chapter, ask each other the questions in this section. Try to use only English as you ask and answer. If you are reading this book alone, you can read the questions out loud and even answer them to yourself out loud. Some of the questions will be easier to answer if you read the chapter twice. If you and your friends can give thorough answers to these questions, then you will know that you have gained an understanding of the chapter's contents.

If you don't have a study partner, don't throw this book in the trash yet. Many of the methods for improvement in the following chapters can also help you individually improve your spoken

English.

I recommend you keep a pen handy. Underline or circle ideas in this book which you think will be most helpful to you.

If you are currently taking an English class or studying an English textbook, don't stop. The information in this book will greatly enhance the learning you are already engaged in. In the back of the book you will find some appendixes which list references for continued English improvement. These include books, web sites, etc. I suggest you look at them now. Whether you are taking an English class or not, the knowledge, ideas, activities and methods listed in this book will guide you into English fluency faster than you ever dreamed possible!

The following Chinese people helped me with translation of this book: 徐大玲, 童碧莎, 胡超, 刘思思, 李小利, 路金蓉, 周佳佳, 王一伟, 王晓荣, 赵媛媛, 高小博, 王博. And 李欣怡, 许健, 刘晓艳, 马阳波, 王义惠, 林冬梅, 钱群超, 刘明月, 李珊珊, 耿菲, 陈亮, etc. made comments in this book. 杨艳, 闫明月, 赵静, 刘玲玲, 高雁, 孔泉泉, 阿题开姆·吾普尔, 马阳波, etc. accepted my interview about the best way to improve spoken English. I gratefully acknowledge them for their significant contributions.

内容简介 Introduction

You are holding in your hand a book that will most likely change the way you think about learning and speaking English. The fact that you bought this book is proof you really want to improve your spoken English. You have studied English under many different teachers, probably all very skilled. You have taken English exams. You've studied with lots of English textbooks, but you are not satisfied with your present ability to communicate in English. Now you have chosen to read a book that will take you beyond classroom and textbook study, into the real world of freely speaking English.

Although I've taught *Oral English* classes for more than twelve years, I prefer to call them by another name. I like to refer to those classes, and the topic of this book, as *English Communication*. Why do we study a foreign language? For that matter, why do we even learn our own mother language? Is it not for the purpose of communicating with other people? What about English?

People all over the world are learning English so they can communicate with people from English speaking countries. They also study English to talk with non-native English speakers from other nations who have learned to speak English. The purpose of language is communication. Therefore, in this book sometimes the words *Oral English* or *Spoken English* are replaced with *English Communication*. That's why we learn language — to communicate with people.

Lots of people in China study English. Far less people can actually communicate well in this language. Some are satisfied with high exam scores. Others just want to pass their English classes so they can move on to other courses. Many people are only interested in being able to read English, especially if they have to read English instructions for their jobs or understand English on the computer. These are all good reasons to study English, but the contents of this book are designed for people like you: People who are not satisfied with just passing exams and reading, people who are eager to go out and really communicate with this language.

You are reading this book, instead of just studying another textbook. This shows that you are now ready to take the next step toward successful English communication. Fluent

communication takes more than just studying. It takes action. It requires taking the actions you are preparing to read about in the following chapters.

The methods for improving your English communication skills in this book are not complicated. They are not meant to be complicated because the best ways to improve oral English are not complicated. In fact, most of this book is written in very simple English. There's no need to make your training any more complex than it needs to be. I often tell my students, "Spoken English is not *complicated*, but it isn't *easy* either." It's simple, but hard work. It does require self-discipline but it doesn't have to be so complex that nobody can figure out what it means.

In my experience teaching English in China, I have found that some of the worst English speakers were also the most complex ones. I've tried to make them understand that simple is better, but they are not willing to listen. They have believed for years that complicated is more "scholarly." Sadly, those students will never be good English communicators. They are the ones who will just read a few chapters of this book, then throw it aside and proudly say, "This book is too simple." They will go back to their complicated scholarly books and continue becoming worse and worse at speaking natural English.

On the other hand, there are wise people, like you, who will see the simplicity of this book and honestly say, "Maybe this foreigner really does know what he is talking about. I'll give it a try." These people may or may not already be good at speaking English, but they have a bright future of fluently and freely communicating in English. They don't care if proud people look down on them for their simple approach. They are not worried about higher exam scores of their classmates. They are willing to try the methods in this book, and, while the others are just becoming more complicated, they will become the best English communicators in China — or, where ever in the world they want to go.

As you read this handy guide, I hope you will feel my heart. I hope you will realize that I love China and Chinese people. I really want *you* to succeed. The whole world is speaking English today, and I want *you*, my Chinese friend, to be one of the best of those English speakers. I want *YOU* to go out and communicate freely with the rest of the world. I want *YOU* to be able to effectively use English in your job. Whether you go abroad or make friends with international visitors in China, I want *YOUR* English conversations to be fluent and natural. As you read this book and try these methods, I invite *YOU* to join me in the great adventure of the real world of English communication!

作者简介 About the author

Michael Knapp, from the USA, first visited China in 1995. After several more trips to this country he finally moved to Hohhot, Inner Mongolia to teach English. Three years later, he moved to Beijing and married a beautiful Chinese girl. They presently live in Beijing with their two children: a six-year-old daughter and a three-year-old son.

Michael has a master's degree in International Relations from VIU. He also holds a TESL certificate, and an Indiana Real Estate license.

He has over twelve years experience teaching in China. He has taught Oral English, English Listening, Business English, Intensive Reading, Culture, Marketing, Human Resource Management, and Business Writing. He specializes in helping Chinese student improve their English communication skills.

He is the author of "Here They Come! Are You Ready?" (有朋自远方来, 机械工业出版社), co-author together with 周红红 of the textbook "Watch, Listen, Speak Fluent English" (视听说教程, 北京交通大学出版社). He has also edited and proofread a several English textbooks. He writes a bi-weekly column in the English edition of Beijing's *Global Times* newspaper.

He and his wife have worked together on numerous translation and proofreading projects. Together they also ran a small English school for orphans in western China.

In the USA, Michael worked full-time in retail management. Additionally, he worked part-time in real estate and the US Navy Reserves.

He enjoys high-energy activities, including windsurfing, skiing, mountain climbing, camping, American football, swimming and biking. He also likes cross-cultural experiences and traveling. He has traveled to Mexico, Canada, Italy, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, Japan, South Korea, many places in China, and most states in the USA.

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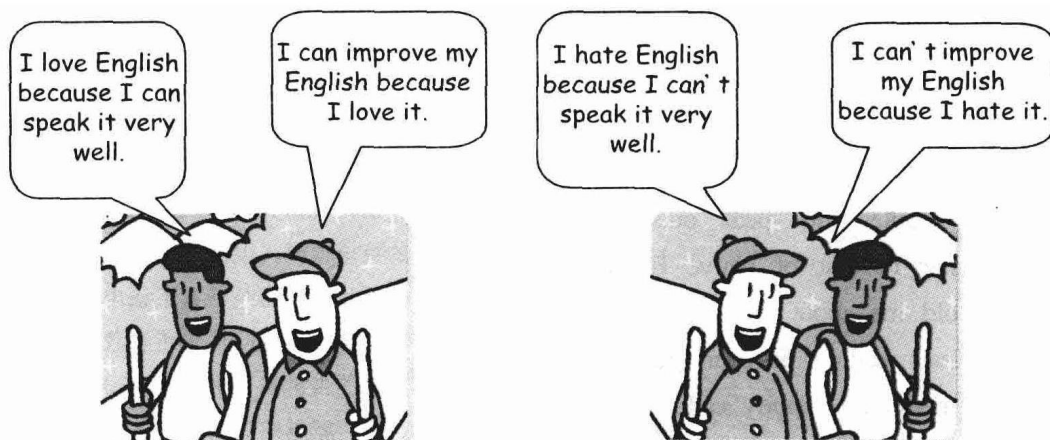
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I Love English

我热爱英语

1

CHAPTER



When my Chinese wife speaks English she sounds more American than Chinese. Americans listening to her on the phone for the first time don't know she's from China. Some Chinese people say, "Her English is good because she's married to a foreigner." What they don't realize is that she spoke English fluently before she knew me. When we first got together I asked her, "How did your English become so good?" I was an English teacher and I wanted to pass her secret along to my students. I don't remember everything she said, but one simple statement made a lasting impression on me. She smiled beautifully and

我的妻子是中国人，她讲得一口地道的美式英语。当我的美国朋友在电话里初次听她讲话时，竟然没听出她是土生土长的中国人。我曾听有的中国人说，“你妻子的英语这么地道，就是因为她嫁给了一个美国人。”他们所不知道的是，在认识我之前，她的英语就这么棒了。当我们刚开始在一起时，我问过她，你的英语是怎样说得这么好的？我是一个英语老师，我想替我的学生偷点她的英语学习经验。虽然我现在不记得她当时说过的每一句话，但是有一句话虽简短，却留给我很深的印象。她唇角噙着一个迷人的微笑简简单单

simply replied, "I love English."

For those who prefer a more complex system, her answer may seem too simple. Perhaps that's one of the reasons people find it difficult to improve their spoken English. For many years they use complicated study methods, but find little improvement. Some people are too proud to accept such a simple answer as, "I love English." They may be proud of their difficult techniques, but their English doesn't improve quickly because they don't really love English.

Just so you don't think my wife is the only person in China who answered, "I love English." I've been asking others the same question. I have been careful only to ask people who speak outstanding, natural English, similar to that of native English speakers. Some have told me about their experiences watching English movies, reading or even going abroad, but almost all of them have happily said, "I love English!" The more people I talk to, the more I'm persuaded that this is the first key to quick improvement.

Do you think Yao Ming loves basketball? Is he good at playing basketball? The obvious answer to both of these questions is "yes." Sure, he's tall and has a lot of natural ability, but he would never be so good if he didn't love the sport. **English is much like basketball. If you don't like it, your improvement will be very slow. The more you love it, the more natural your improvement will be.** As seen in Figure 1-1, we usually become good at what we love doing.

地说, "我热爱英语。"

对于那些凡事喜欢复杂化的人来说, 她的答案似乎太简单了。也许那正是人们觉得很难提高英语口语的原因。很多年来, 他们用复杂的学习方法来改善口语, 但是并没有太大的进步。一些人并不情愿接受像 "我爱英语" 这样简单的答案。他们以掌握难度更大的技巧为自豪, 但是他们的英语水平并没有得到迅速的改善, 那是因为他们不是真的热爱英语。

你可别以为在中国仅有我妻子一个人说 "我热爱英语"。我问过好多人同样的问题。当然, 我问的那些人都说很地道的英语, 就像英语本土国家的人一样, 他们的英语很棒, 很自然。他们当中的一些人告诉我, 他们经常看英语电影、读英语报刊甚至出国, 但几乎所有我问过的人都很高兴的告诉我 "我热爱英语"。我问的人越多, 就越感觉到这是快速改善英语口语的关键。

你认为姚明热爱篮球吗? 他擅长打篮球吗? 很明显, 这两个问题的答案都是 "是"。当然, 他长得高, 又有很多的天然优势, 但是如果他不热爱这项运动, 他永远不会打篮球打得这样好。学英语就像打篮球, 如果你不喜欢它, 你的进步就会很慢。你越热爱它, 自然而然你就会有越大的改善。就像在图 1-1 中看到的, 我们会擅长于我们热爱做的事情。

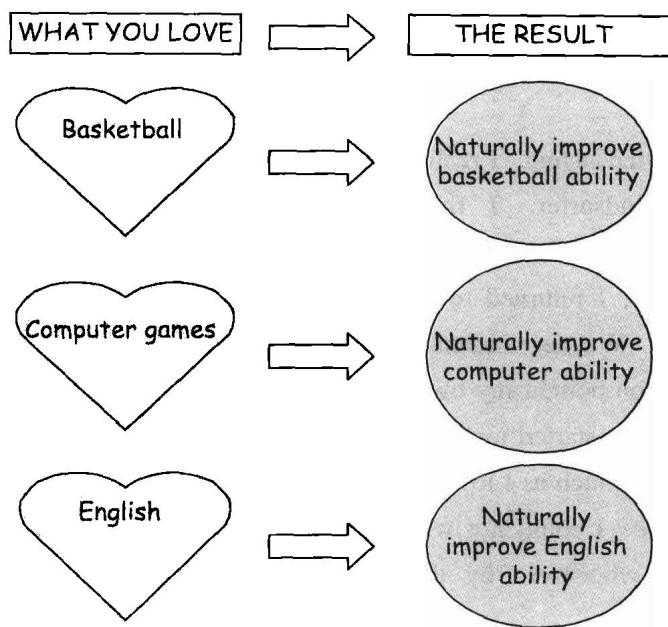


Figure 1-1 We become good at what we love most.

There are many reasons some people are better English speakers than others. Lazy people generally improve much slower than those who are diligent. Some people are born with natural language talent. I have an American friend who fluently speaks many languages and he doesn't study any of them — I'm the exact opposite. To speak Chinese I have to work extra hard and use all the methods described in this book because speaking Chinese is not my *natural* ability. Environment and the age a person begins studying English may also have some effect on their ability, but loving the language is an essential first step.

一些人的英语比其他人好，原因有很多。但是，勤劳的人就会比那些懒惰的人提高得快，也有一些人天生有语言天赋。我有一个美国朋友，他没有学过任何一门外语，但是他能很流利地讲多国语言——而我正好相反。我没有天生说好汉语的能力，所以为了说好汉语，我很努力地学习并且采用了很多我的书中提到的学语言的方法。一个人开始学习英语的环境和他的年龄对他的学习能力也会有一定的影响，但是学好一门语言必要的第一步是爱这门语言。