

**Drama in Hospital — The Place Where Life Begins and Ends**

# **医院情景英语口语**

华仲乐 编著

**高等教育出版社**

图书在版编目 ( C I P ) 数据

医院情景英语口语/华仲乐编著. --北京: 高等教育出版社, 2005. 6(2007 重印)  
ISBN 978—7—04—017313—0

I. 医… II. 华… III. 医学—英语—口语  
IV. H319.9

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2005) 第 042982 号

策划编辑	杜颖方	责任编辑	叶春阳	封面设计	王 峰	责任绘图	王 辉
版式设计	石志春	责任校对	田素芳	责任印制	毛斯璐		

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出版发行	高等教育出版社	购书热线	010—58581118
社 址	北京市西城区德外大街 4 号	免费咨询	800—810—0598
邮政编码	100011	网 址	<a href="http://www.hep.edu.cn">http://www.hep.edu.cn</a>
总 机	010—58581000		<a href="http://www.hep.com.cn">http://www.hep.com.cn</a>
经 销	蓝色畅想图书发行有限公司	网上订购	<a href="http://www.landaco.com">http://www.landaco.com</a>
印 刷	北京宏伟双华印刷有限公司		<a href="http://www.landaco.com.cn">http://www.landaco.com.cn</a>
		畅想教育	<a href="http://www.widedu.com">http://www.widedu.com</a>
开 本	787×960 1/16	版 次	2005 年 6 月第 1 版
印 张	14	印 次	2007 年 5 月第 2 次印刷
字 数	300 000	定 价	19.00 元

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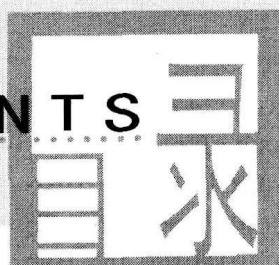
物料号 17313—00

- ◆ **Relevant Facts** offers information about various aspects of the medical profession and hospital administration
- ◆ **Points to Ponder and Discuss** suggests diverse classroom and out-of-class activities, such as discussion, debate, presentation, role-playing, etc. for authentic oral practice
- ◆ **Selected Words and Expressions in Common Usage** centers on terms that occur frequently in spoken English and their everyday usage
- ◆ **Phrasal Verb Study** acquaints you with expressions that are preferred in spoken English, and gives simple examples to illustrate their use
- ◆ **Sentences for Imitation** shows how you can effectively express yourself through imitation

All these provide additional materials for the learners to enrich their competence and skills.

It is the author's sincere wish that by reading this book, you will have a pleasant and instructive experience in improving your oral English.

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# Part I



## INTRODUCTION

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### A Kaleidoscope of Colors (七彩广角)

In a pleasant autumn day the life of Long Island Hospital ebbs and flows like tide currents around an offshore island. In the admitting department on the main floor, the chief clerk is sorting the day's discharge slips that have come down from the wards, which means that new names can be plucked from the hospital's long waiting list for immediate admission. In the outpatient clinics, now in full session, some specialists are making their talents available free to those who can't afford the private-patient fees charged by private practices. On the surgical floor, staff surgeons, interns, and nurses in green scrub suits are working efficiently and carefully. Some of the surgeons have completed their first cases of the morning and are drifting into the staff room for coffee before going on to subsequent ones. From the operating rooms, nurses are beginning to wheel patients still under anesthesia into one of the two recovery rooms. In Obstetrics, where babies have a habit of coming in batches, this seems to be the hour when all hell breaks loose, with half a dozen babies waiting to be born at once. In Gynecology, a young doctor is trying to calm a young woman who is hysterical about an ovarian mass and the upcoming operation. In the hospital kitchen, the chief dietitian is nibbling a piece of pie and nodding approvingly at

- ◆ He has flatly denied being involved in the fraud.
- ◆ Dr. Davis was accused of denying treatment to older patients.



## Phrasal Verb Study      Sort

### Sort out

- (a) organize something that is mixed up or untidy 整理, 分检  
I need to sort out the mess on my desk.
- (b) deal with problems 处理, 解决  
There's been a mistake. I'll try to sort things out and call you back.
- (c) find an answer to a question or mystery 搞清, 弄明白  
Investigators are still trying to sort out why the accident happened.

### Sort through

- (a) look for something among a lot of similar things 搜寻  
She sorted through her handbag for her keys.



## Scene Two Crisis in the Department of Gynecology (婚检惊变)

*Miss Horton behaves frantically in the ward. Earlier, she goes to her family doctor for a routine examination before marriage, only to find herself having an ovarian mass. Now Dr. Craig is trying to calm her.*

**Dr. Craig:** I have to ask you some questions. Will you answer them? Please?

**Horton:** I'll try.

**Dr. Craig:** Noticed any weight loss in the last month?

**Horton:** No.

**Dr. Craig:** Any pressure on the bladder?

**Horton:** Yes. Is that important?

**Dr. Craig:** Probably not. Did you notice any other effect of this mass on your daily functions?

**Horton:** I didn't even know there was a mass! Mother kept saying, before a girl gets married she should have a complete physical. To make sure there are no impairments. "Impairments to what?" I asked. And she said, "Impairments to having children."

**Dr. Craig:** (changing the subject, hoping to put her at ease) What kind of work do you do?

**Horton:** I work in an ad agency. Secretary.

**Dr. Craig:** Parents still living and well?

**Horton:** Yes.

**Dr. Craig:** Any family history of cancer?

**Horton:** I... I don't know.

**Dr. Craig:** You mean if there had been, your mother and father would have kept it from you?

**Horton:** I don't know because I'm adopted! I don't know my family history.

**Dr. Craig:** I understand.

**Horton:** Do you? I wonder! I wonder if you know how it feels to go through your

have medical examinations and blood tests before they can obtain a marriage license(结婚证). For example, some states require a certificate stating that the man and woman are free from tuberculosis in either the infectious or advanced states, some states prohibit the marriage of those with transmittable disease in infectious state, some require an examination for venereal diseases (性病), such as syphilis(梅毒).

2. It has been established that **taking certain drugs during pregnancy** can cause problems, even cancer, in the child. That's probably why Horton wishes she could ask her mother what drugs she had taken during pregnancy.



### Points to Ponder and Discuss

1. There have been reports that many prospective brides and bridegrooms are not very enthusiastic about the premarital physicals. Can you think of the reasons why they are not eager to take such tests?
2. It is a well established fact that many hereditary diseases are capable of being passed to children from parents with defective genes. In view of this, do you think that medical examinations for possible genetic disorders before marriage should be made compulsory in order to ensure a healthier population?



### Selected Words and Expressions in Common Usage

- (a) **effect** (a change or result that is caused by sth. ; use of an official rule or plan)  
to have/exert/produce an immediate/direct/long-term/lasting effect on sb. or sth. ;  
to come into effect; to bring/put sth. into effect; to take effect
- ◆ How soon will the effects of the drug last/wear off?
  - ◆ He did not seem to have suffered any ill effects from his fall.
  - ◆ The new timetable will take/come into effect from the beginning of June.
- (b) **ease** (the ability to do sth. easily; behavior that is relaxed and natural)



### Scene Three    Hard Tracing in the Main-Floor Corridor (走廊追蹤)

*Miss Mildred, senior records clerk of the hospital, is moving fast after Dr. Pearson, who has just disappeared around the corner. Finally, she catches up with him in the main-floor corridor.*

**Mildred:**        Dr. Pearson! Dr. Pearson! (She catches up with him.)

**Dr. Pearson:** (irritably) What is it? What is it?

**Mildred:**        These autopsy protocols have to be signed, Dr. Pearson. The Health Board has asked for extra copies.

**Dr. Pearson:** Some other time. I'm in a hurry.

**Mildred:**        Please, Doctor. It'll only take a moment. I've been trying to get you for three days.

**Dr. Pearson:** (scribbling signatures) I don't know what I'm signing. What is it?

**Mildred:**        It's the Howden case, Dr. Pearson.

**Dr. Pearson:** There are so many cases. I don't remember.

**Mildred:**        It's the workman who was killed when he fell from a high catwalk. If you remember, the employers said the fall must have been caused by a heart attack because otherwise their safety precautions would have prevented it.

**Dr. Pearson:** Yeah. (He goes on signing.)

**Mildred:**        The autopsy, however, showed that the man had a healthy heart and no other physical condition which might have caused him to fall.

**Dr. Pearson:** I know all that.

**Mildred:**        I'm sorry, Doctor. I thought...

**Dr. Pearson:** It was an accident. They'll have to give the widow a pension. Maybe I can get on with some real work now, eh?

**Mildred:**        Thank you, Doctor. Thank you very much.



## Language Notes

*Note the difference between **must have done**, **might have done** and **would have done**.*

For further examples, compare the following:

*Since the high catwalk was safe and secure, he **must have fallen** through carelessness.*

*We **checked all the problems that might have caused danger**, so we were not responsible for his fall.*

*We **would have been responsible** for his fall if we had not checked the problems.*



## Relevant Facts

1. An **autopsy protocol** (尸检协议书) is a written agreement on performing autopsies; hospitals need permission to do autopsies.
2. The **Health Board** (卫生委员会) is a public body that may be appointed or elected, and is concerned with administering the laws that concern the health of the public.
3. **Pension** (退休金; 补偿费) is money for retired employees; in this dialogue, it refers to money paid to the wife of the deceased as compensation.



## Points to Ponder and Discuss

1. Discuss why it is so important to have a medical-records department in a hospital.
2. If a workman fell from a high catwalk, what different causes could there be? By the way, a doctor's decision on the cause or the nature of an accident often has a direct bearing on how the problem is dealt with and how the person in question fares. How should a doctor act in the face of a case like the Howden's? Why?



## Selected Words and Expressions in Common Usage

- (a) **record** (information kept about sth. that has happened; the best achievement so far in a particular activity)  
 a good/bad record; to keep/maintain/compile a record; to set/put the record straight;  
 to break/beat a record; to hold a record  
 ◆ It is advisable to keep a record of any money you pay out.  
 ◆ The director gave an interview to the newspapers to set the record straight.  
 ◆ If she continues like this she could beat the record.
- (b) **catch** (to get a disease or illness; to discover a problem or medical condition soon enough; to see or smell sth. for a very short time)  
 to catch sth from; to catch (a problem, etc.) to catch a glimpse of; to catch sight of  
 ◆ He caught the flu from his sister and had to stay in bed.  
 ◆ This kind of cancer can be cured, provided it is caught early enough.  
 ◆ She suddenly caught sight of the look on her mother's face.
- (c) **moment** (a particular point in time; a very short period of time)  
 at the moment; from the moment (that); in a moment; to last/take/give/spare a moment  
 ◆ We're very upset and don't want to talk at the moment.  
 ◆ Stay where you are; I'll be back in a moment.  
 ◆ I spent a few moments thinking what I was going to say.
- (d) **condition** (the physical state of sth. ; the situation in which people live or work; sth. stated in a contract or agreement; an illness or health problem; a person's state of health)  
 to be in good/bad/perfect condition; working/driving/living conditions; under the conditions of; a heart/lung condition; out of condition; in no condition to do sth.  
 ◆ The hospital spokesman said the victim was in a serious condition.



## **Scene Four    A Bitter Complaint about Unfair Charges (收费投诉)**

*Mr. Grant, the administrator, is taking a call from a Mr. Bryan complaining of a hospital bill.*

**Mr. Grant:** No, Mr. Bryan, I don't remember the particular case. But I will make some inquiries. I promise you that. . . . Yes, sir, I do know what a hospital bill means to a family. But the hospital doesn't make any profit, you know. . . . Well, sir, it's the physician who decides how long a patient remains in hospital. I think you should have another talk with your wife's physician, and what I'll do meanwhile is have our treasurer go over your bill, item by item. . . . Thank you, Mr. Bryan. Good-bye.

**Dr. Dole:** What was the trouble?

**Mr. Grant:** He claims his wife was kept in too long. Now he has to go into debt to pay the bill.

**Dr. Dole:** (sharply) How does he know she was in too long?

**Mr. Grant:** He says he's checked around — whatever that means. (thoughtfully) It may have been necessary, of course, but she was here nearly three weeks.

**Dr. Dole:** So?

**Mr. Grant:** Normally I wouldn't think much about it, but we've had an unusual number of these complaints. They're not always as strong as this — but on the same lines.

**Dr. Dole:** Who was the attending physician?

**Mr. Grant:** Reubens.

**Dr. Dole:** Let's see if we can get him and clear this up.



◆ Few of us can quarrel with the idea of more choice and more competition.

(b) **discharge** (to officially allow to leave)

to discharge sb. from sth. ; to discharge sth. into

◆ After he was discharged from the army, he had intended to return to the world of teaching.

◆ The childen was taken to hospital but was later discharged.

◆ In some places raw sewage is still discharged directly into the rivers and lakes.

(c) **handle** (to deal with sb. or sth.)

to handle well/badly/poorly; to handle sth. with care

◆ We felt the dispute was badly handled.

◆ This issue may need to be handled carefully.

◆ All chemicals must be handled with care.

(d) **promise** (statement that you will do sth. ; signs that sb. or sth. will be successful)

to make/give a promise; to keep a promise; to break a promise;

to show/hold promise;

**promise** (to say that you will do sth.)

to promise to do; promise sb. (that); promise sth. to sb.

◆ I'll try, but I'm not making any promises.

◆ My son is showing great promise in financial matters.

◆ Promise me you'll be home before dark.



## Phrasal Verb Study      Get

### Get around

(a) go from place to place 各处走动

He gets around a lot in his job as a journalist.

(b) (news, rumors) get circulated [消息等]传开

It got around that there was an outbreak of smallpox.

(c) find a way of dealing with a problem 找时间去做; 终于去做

John's rather stupidly promised his son a week in Florida if he comes out top