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大学英语口语教程

(课外版)

College Spoken English

A Cultural Information Book

哈尔滨工业大学出版社

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前 言

我国社会经济、文化及教育迅猛发展的趋势,使大学英语传统的课程模式和教学模式面临严峻的挑战。随着我国加入世贸组织,扩大对外开放和全球化竞争的进程加快,使我国同国外接触的机会越来越多。英语作为世界通用语已被广泛应用于世界交往的各种场合,以知识传授为主的教育已远远不能满足科技化、信息化、国际化社会对人才的需求。因此,改变大学英语教学指导思想,改革现行的教学模式、教学内容及课程体系,从知识传授转向能力培养,即从单纯的领会能力教学转向综合的语言表达能力的培养已成为我国外语教育界的当务之急。

针对当前我国的教育状况,国家教育部提出了大学英语教育改革的举措,并颁布了《大学英语课程教学要求》,为促进大学英语教育确定了明晰的目标和具体要求。结合当前的发展趋势,依据国家教育部的《大学英语课程教学要求》,我们编写了这套口语教程。编写本教程的目的之一在于改变大学英语教学的现状,让学生们通过学习和实践,达到综合能力水平的提高,尤其在口语方面有一个明显的突破。本教材以每单元一个主题的形式出现,让学生们就某一主题全面掌握其背景知识,通过对主题提出思考、讨论来阐明自己的观点。在掌握交际技巧的同时,条理清晰地表达自己的目的;目的之二是培养学生灵活处理语言环境的能力,对有限的内容进行发散,力争达到可以自行处理生活中所遇到的方方面面。当然这些还只是对大学英语教学模式改革的一种尝试,还有待得到长期实践的检验。

《大学英语口语教程》分为两册,分别用于课内和课外。课外教材为课程提供了大量的背景信息和一定的讨论素材,让学生在课前对内容有所了解。课内教材针对主题内容安排了有步骤的组织活动,使学生充分掌握和运用所学知识,得到实践的锻炼,为将来走向社会打下坚实的语言基础。

希望本教程能够对大学英语教学改革起到积极的推动作用,使学生们大大受益。

本教程编写过程中参考了大量的有关书籍和资料,只因信息来源繁杂,不便在此逐一列出,希望见谅。在此我们表示衷心的感谢。

本教程由美籍教师史蒂夫·尼森(Steve Nessen)审阅全部书稿并提出许多有益的建议,在此表示深切谢意。

由于本教程编写仓促,难免有疏漏和不足之处,敬请同仁谏诤。

《大学英语口语教程》编委会
2006年1月于哈尔滨工业大学

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Unit One Oral English

Passage One

English Learning Skill

1. Some Suggestions for Learning English

(1) We'd better develop our interest in English at the beginning of our study. To develop interest in English study is not very hard. We may have the feeling of satisfaction and achievement from our English study when we are able to say something simple in English, talk with others or foreigners in English and act as others' interpreters.

(2) Plans are always very essential, so we must make some elaborate and workable plans before study. And we should certainly carry out these plans to the letter.

(3) Notes should be made whenever we study any book. We may follow this advice: Don't read book without making notes. As we know that notes are the summarization, the core content, our understanding and the abbreviations of the books. Our notes are much thinner than the books so that we can learn them by heart easily and can often review and read them. We may also record our notes on tapes so as to often listen to them easily, to deepen our impression and to lighten our burden of memory. Sometimes it is helpful to draw some tables and illustrations that are very impressive and concise.

(4) Watching English movies, English TV programs, listening to English songs and learning English on some special occasions are also excellent and vivid English learning ways as we may combine English with certain scenes to deepen our memory.

(5) Never just memorize single English words. Learn by heart the whole sentences and the phrases that contain the new words so we may know how to use the words.

(6) If time permits, we may read Mini Chinese-English dictionary carefully from cover to cover, which may help us widen our sight and master knowledge in all aspects.

(7) Excellent personality is one of the decisive factors in English study. Persistence, patience, self-confidence and determination are badly needed. Please keep them in mind.

2. Oral English Skills

(1) We study spoken English so as to make oral communications, so this order of importance of oral English study should be followed: Fluency, Accuracy, and Appropriateness. That is to say, we have to pay more attention to practical communicative abilities instead of only laying emphasis on the grammatical correctness.

(2) Try to find some partners to practice oral English together and an English corner is a good place as where we may exchange English study experience, widen our sight and improve interest in English.

(3) If English partners are not easy to get, we have to create an English environment ourselves by speaking English to ourselves.

(4) This method is very effective and easy to go on—interpreting Chinese-English novels or books. First we read the Chinese parts and then try to interpret them into English and then compare our interpretation with the original versions in the novels or books so that we can find out the mistakes, shortcomings and progress in our interpretation.

(5) Interpreting what you hear—Changing Roles: Three people can make a group: one speaks Chinese, one speaks English acting as the foreigner, one acts as an interpreter. Then change roles. This is a good interpreting training method and is good for studying from one another. In addition, it may improve the responding ability and speed of students. The advanced stage of this method is simultaneous interpretation¹.

(6) Oral composition and 3-minute training method: This method is suitable for intense training. We can make an oral composition about a certain topic for one minute the first time and record the composition on tape at the same time. Then listen to the composition and find out the room for improvement. Then make the same composition for two minutes for the second time and also record it. And at last repeat the above-mentioned for three minutes.

(7) Retelling exercise: Retell some articles or English stories in our own words.

(8) If possible, we may read some English tongue twisters² loudly and quickly with one or two cakes of candy in our mouth (just as the Chinese cross-talk actors do) to train our oral cavity³ muscles and the tongue suitable for English pronunciation.

(9) Paying more attention to phrases and small words as one major shortcoming of Chinese English (especially Chinese oral English) is that

Chinese students tend to use big words in their oral language, but the idiomatic oral English is abundant with short, active and vivid phrases. And most of such phrases are made of small words.

(10) Thinking in English.

(11) Oral English has its own features, but it is closely combined with other aspects of English, for example, writing may make oral English precise and accurate.

3. Listening Skills

(1) We may improve our aural ability by speaking English in the native and idiomatic way. The pronunciation, intonation and sentence structure should not be in the Chinese style.

(2) Keep a relaxed, natural and steady mood when listening to some materials. Namely, to establish self-confidence and to develop excellent psychological qualities are essential in the improvement of aural ability.

(3) We may make some simple notes while listening, for example, the names of people and places, time, age, distance, occupation, figures and so on to get a better understanding of the content.

(4) Catch the gist of the content instead of understanding every word and never waste too much time on single words.

(5) Pay close attention to CONCESSION⁴ and TRANSITION⁵ so as to correctly understand the attitudes of the speakers. The following words are most important: even though, even so, in spite of, unless, although, no matter, however, whatever, no, nor, neither...nor, but....

(6) If we may learn by heart new words by listening to some word tapes, the results must be satisfactory.

4. Reading Skills

(1) Intensive Reading: When we read the intensive articles, we should make notes of the new words and phrases and good sentences. After reading them, we may ask ourselves some questions about them by using such words: Who, What, Why, When and Where. Then try to answer them in our own words.

(2) Extensive reading: We must train our ability to scan, skim and read fast, namely, the ability to catch the key words, the topic sentences and the gist of the articles.

(3) Reading speed: There are 3 ways to improve our reading speed: 1) Read the articles from the beginning to the end without intervals so as to catch the rough idea of the articles on the whole. Never waste too much

time on some new words and single sentences. 2) We may keep time when reading articles. 3) When reading articles, we can point at the words with our finger or pen point and our eyes move with the finger quickly so that we are able to read very fast.

(4) Newspaper as good reading materials can widen our sight and enrich our knowledge.

5. Writing Skills

(1) We have to accumulate abundant materials before we write something, say, learning by heart crowds of articles.

(2) Try to express one meaning in various ways.

(3) Keep an English diary if possible.

(4) Prepare some new words, expressions and good sentences to be used before writing something.

(5) We may also make some English pen pals⁶ to establish English communication relationship through some media like newspaper and magazines.

New Words and Phrases:

1. interpreter *n.* one who translates orally from one language into Another 口译者
2. elaborate *adj.* planned or executed with painstaking attention to numerous parts or details 精心制作的
3. abbreviation *n.* a shortened form of a word or phrase used in writing to represent the complete form 缩略语
4. illustration *n.* material used to clarify or explain 例证
5. concise *adj.* expressing much in few words 简明的, 简洁的
6. persistence *n.* perseverance 坚持不懈
7. version *n.* a particular form of an earlier or original type 某种形式
8. idiomatic *adj.* peculiar to or characteristic of the style or manner of a particular group or people 特有的, 独特的; 特定人群或民族特有或独有的风俗或习惯的
9. abundant *adj.* rich or plentiful 丰富的
10. gist *n.* the central idea; the essence 中心, 中心思想; 精华, 要素
11. accumulate *v.* to gather or pile up 收集, 堆集; 积累

Notes:

1. simultaneous interpretation 同声传译
2. tongue twister 绕口令

3. oral cavity 口腔
4. concession 让步和转折句型
5. transition 过渡词语
6. pen pal 笔友

Questions for Discussion:

1. Have you ever thought about using some practical ways to learn English efficiently?
2. What do you think might be the best way for you to improve your oral English?
3. What is the most immediate thing you can do to improve your oral English?

Passage Two

Living and Learning in the West

By Naomi Woronov, From Modern American English

SOCIAL CUSTOMS

Perhaps the main thing to remember about American society is that it's very informal and very tolerant of widely divergent social behavior. Remember that America is a nation of immigrants—it's made up of people from all over the world, all of whom bring their own traditions and habits with them. Thus you needn't worry much about "proper" behavior, who sits next to whom at the dinner table, what is the appropriate dress for the occasion, etc. The text and dialogues below focus on cultural differences between Chinese and Western societies which can create misunderstandings if ignored. This unit also attempts to answer some of your questions about social customs, and to give you practice in socially necessary vocabulary and idioms.

ABOUT "YES" AND "NO"

Americans are very direct people. When we want something we say "yes" and when we don't we say "no". Furthermore, if we want something different from what is offered, we ask for it. Here's an example. Suppose I arrive at someone's house and he offers me beer. I don't want beer. Maybe I don't like it or maybe I just don't feel like it. I will say "No, thanks." If everyone around me is drinking something, I would want to be sociable and

would therefore ask for something else: "No, thanks. But I'll take a bit of wine (or tea or a coke¹) if you have some." If I do want beer, I simply say, "Yes, thank you." (If there are only a few guests I might be polite and say "please don't trouble yourself." The other person will then say, "It's no trouble at all." Then I would ask directly for what I want.) Unless they happen to be familiar with Chinese customs, Westerners will not ask you again and again or try to press something on you after you have said you don't want it. In fact, if you say "no" when you really want something to drink or to eat, you may find yourself very thirsty or hungry.

ABOUT "THANK YOU"

"Thank you" means that you recognize that someone has done something for you. Thus we thank people all day long, even for the smallest, most ordinary things. If a waitress brings you a cup of coffee, you say "thank you." When you pay for your food and get your change, you say "thank you" to the cashier. If someone gives you directions in the street, you say "thank you." If someone invites you to dinner, you say "Yes, thank you. I'd love to come." However, that's enough. Excessive expressions of gratitude make Westerners extremely uncomfortable and give a sense of empty thanks, a sense of formal or required kow-towing² which does not indicate gratitude but insincerity. For example, if your advisor spends a half-hour of his time helping you edit some letters you've just written, you will want to say "Thank you. I really appreciate your time." But one or two phrases of that sort is enough. If you go on and on with statements about his kindness, the person will feel not thanked but annoyed, and will not be anxious to help you again.

ABOUT "KOW-TOWING"

For God's sake, stop apologizing. It's perfectly understandable that a Chinese person doesn't speak entirely correct English; there is no need for you to apologize for your English everywhere you go and to whomever you meet. And stop saying that you don't know anything about your specialty. In fact, you know a good deal, and you certainly know things that Western scholars don't know. Westerners do not consider excessive modesty a great virtue as Chinese people do. We tend to take things at face value. Phrases such as "I'm sorry to have wasted your time" are considered very embarrassing; if, in fact, you believe you are wasting my time, you should stay out of my office, not give a report to the seminar, and not give a paper at the conference.

If you are terribly shy and modest about your knowledge and ability in

your field, if you do not speak up for yourself when you arrive at an institution as a researcher, for example, you may find yourself working as something like a "lab tech" washing test tubes instead of doing the scientific research you are in fact fully capable of doing.

ABOUT COMPLIMENTS

Giving and receiving compliments is an acceptable part of making daily conversation. Someone says to you. "That's a beautiful sweater you're wearing." Incorrect response: "Oh, no, I've had this ugly old thing for years." Correct response: "Thank you. My mother knitted it for me several years ago." Offering compliments is also a good way for you to make light conversation.

ABOUT PRIVACY

A nation has borders or boundaries, and everything within those borders belongs to that nation. Many a war has been fought over boundary disputes. So, too, people have private territory; and Westerners take the concept of personal territory very seriously.

For example, both in homes and offices, desks and desk drawers are private territory. The letters, documents, journals or even newspapers on top of the desk belong to the person whose desk it is (even if the desk itself is actually the private property of an institution). Without asking permission, we do not pick them up and read or look at them. The vast majority of people will gladly lend you what is theirs—just ask. By the way, it's also impolite to read over someone's shoulder.

GIFTS

It is absolutely unnecessary to bring a gift when invited to dinner, but if you want to do so it should be a small, inexpensive item. You might bring some sweets or some small toys for the children or something from China. Here are some suggestions: a paper-cut³ is a lovely gift (one is fine, not a whole package); if you want to make it even fancier, you can buy a very inexpensive frame in the local five-and-ten⁴ and frame it. Chinese tea is a wonderful gift; it's true that Chinese tea is available in the States⁵, but the fact that you choose it and brought it with you from China makes it very special. Chinese bookmarks⁶ are very lovely gifts, and if you want to buy a set of Chinese paintings which you admire, you might give one of them as a gift. One of the nicest things you can do is to cook some typical Chinese dish and bring it with you. Again, however, a gift is not necessary, and if you come with a group of scholars or students one small token gift from all of

you (rather than each of you) is entirely satisfactory.

New Words and Phrases:

1. tolerant *adj.* forbearing 宽容的
2. divergent *adj.* differing from another 不同的
3. ignore *v.* to refuse to pay attention to; disregard 不顾; 拒绝注视
4. cashier *n.* a store employee who handles cash transactions with customers 店员, 收银员
5. excessive *adj.* exceeding a normal, usual, reasonable, or proper limit 过量的; 超过正常的、合理的或正当界限的
6. modesty *n.* reserve or propriety in speech, dress, or behavior 不轻率, 端庄; 在讲话, 衣着或行为方面谨慎而适当
7. compliment *n.* an expression of praise, admiration, or congratulation 恭维; 赞美、羡慕或祝贺的表达方式
8. dispute *n.* a verbal controversy; a debate 口头辩论; 争论
9. token *adj.* done as an indication or a pledge 作为指示或保证而做的

Notes:

1. coke 可口可乐的简称
2. kow-towing 源于粤语“磕头”的发音, 指过分谦恭有礼
3. paper-cut 剪纸
4. five-and-ten 小杂货店
5. the States 美国的简称
6. bookmark 书签

Questions for Discussion:

1. Why is it important to know about the American social customs?
2. What are some differences in social customs between China and the US?
3. What have you learned from the passage?

Passage Three

A Brief Guide to English for Chinese Students

By Naomi Woronov, From Modern American English

1. SOUNDS

Sounds determine meaning: "eat" and "it", "sheet" and "seat", "think"

and “sink”, “theories” and “series” have different meanings. Chinese speakers of English generally share certain pronunciation problems, though problems vary according to which province you come from and which dialect of Chinese you speak.

The major problems are distinguishing between the vowel sounds [i], [ɪ] and [aɪ], and between the following sets of consonants: [v] and [w]; [θ] and [ð]; [l] and [r]; [s] and [ʃ].

2. THE EXTRA SYLLABLE

With the exception of the “nasal” consonants [n] and [ŋ], Chinese words generally end in vowel sounds. Thus Chinese speakers very often add an extra syllable to the end of English words. This is an extremely difficult habit to break, so you must be continually conscious of the sounds you’re making.

Try this: recite a few sentences into a tape recorder and then write down precisely what you said. For example: “I thinka he wenta to worka.” Now cross out the extra syllables with a red pen and try the whole thing again. If you do this on a regular basis (say 15 minutes every day) you’ll be able to break the “a” habit.

Remember that innumerable words which end in vowels do not end in vowel sounds, e.g., “like”, “tape”, “take”, “have”, etc. The purpose of the extra “e” is to change the vowel sound in the middle (e.g., “tap” to “tape”.—[æ] to [eɪ], not to add an extra syllable at the end.

3. SYLLABLE STRESS

English, of course, doesn’t have tones like Chinese, but where you place the stress in English (on which syllable) is just as important to comprehension and meaning as tone is in Chinese. Chinese words are monosyllabic (having one syllable), but English words may be mono- or polysyllabic (having many syllables). There is generally only one correct—that is, understandable — pronunciation for each word. Thus, if you say “thérmmometer,” an English speaker may not understand you. He will have to figure out your meaning in context just as you would if someone said “糖” instead of “汤”. Once you have learned to pronounce “therrmómeter” correctly, however, you have instantly learned to pronounce a whole string of words such as “barómeter”, “speedómeter”, “spectrómeter”, etc. It rarely helps to memorize pronunciation rules. As you listen to and speak English you’ll become aware of patterns: “nátion”, “státion”, “rátion”, etc. Through practice you’ll form habits that will enable you to pronounce most new words without looking them up in your dictionary.

Note that some words change stress with part of speech¹: "récord" (n.) and "recórd" (v.); "súbject" (n.) and "subjéct" (v.); "óbject" (n.) and "objéct" (v.), etc. These simply have to be learned over a period of time.

4. RHYTHMS

The rhythms of English sentences are created by

- a) the correct pronunciation of the words,
- b) the grammatical units of the sentence and
- c) special stress to clarify or emphasize meaning.

We have already considered the question of correct pronunciation in the last section, so let's turn to the matter of phrasing.

1. Being...able...to...read...by...phrases....instead...of...by... single... word...results...from...practice.
2. Being able to read by phrases....instead of by single words.... results from practice.

You can see from the example above that the second sentence is divided according to strict grammatical units: participial phrases (being able), infinitive phrases² (to read) and prepositional phrases³ (by single words, etc.). But the third reading is the way a speaker would normally say the sentence and it is in this way that you must learn to read, listen to and speak English.

Sentence rhythms also change with special stress to clarify or emphasize meaning. Consider the difference between these two sentences:

- A. His first experiment proved nothing.
- B. His first experiment proved nothing, but his second experiment was a great success.

In sentence A, the stress is even, and regular. In sentence B, however, "first" gets extra stress to tell the listener that "second" is coming. The "pe" in "experiment" is stressed because that's the way the word is pronounced. The same is true of "nothing". The first syllable of "second" is doubly stressed because it emphasizes the difference in results between the two experiments. "Great" and "success" are stressed because that's what's important in the meaning of the sentence, though "cess" gets the real stress because of the proper pronunciation of the word.

5. CONTRACTIONS

Contractions develop first in the spoken language. Once they have become common usage, a written form is developed for them and then, after a period of years, the written form becomes acceptable or "standard"

English. Because most of you learned to read English before learning to understand or speak it, you may have some problems with contractions. But remember that you can't understand spoken English today unless you're thoroughly familiar with common contractions, and you'll find them more and more in written form every day.

6. FUSION

We noted that there are often significant differences in pronunciation between "special" and "standard" English. For this reason, you must get used to listening to English spoken at normal speed. When we speak rapidly some of our words get fused together, the consonant and vowel sounds sliding into one another. The phrase "once in a while", for example, becomes one word: [wʌsɪnəwəl]. In some cases such usage is so frequent that a phrase is finally written as one word, e.g. "nevertheless". You don't need to say these phrases in this manner, but you must recognize them when they are said to you.

New Words and Phrases:

1. dialect *n.* a variety of language 方言
2. syllable *n.* the slightest bit of spoken or written expression 音节
3. innumerable *adj.* too numerous to be counted 无数的
4. monosyllabic *adj.* having only one syllable 单音节的
5. polysyllabic *adj.* having more than three syllables 多音节的
6. contraction *n.* a word, as won't from will not 缩略词
7. consonant *n.* (音标) 辅音
8. vowel *n.* (音标) 元音

Notes:

1. part of speech 词性
2. infinitive phrases 不定式词组
3. prepositional phrases 介词词组

Questions for Discussion:

1. What is the main idea of this passage?
2. Does the information contained in the passage help you with your English pronunciation? And in what way?
3. Among the six points mentioned in the passage, what is the hardest for you to understand?

(本单元编写: 周之南)

Unit Two Friendship

Passage One

Five Ways to Improve Your Friendship¹

A few years ago, my friend Tina called me to ask me if I could make it to the party she was having that evening. I told her "yes, " and then we proceeded further along in our conversation. As we talked, she went on to share some shocking news that has changed me drastically since. My friend of nearly five years casually mentioned the fact that she would possibly be moving to another city. The move would mean a more secure job for her husband and a closer trip to grandma and grandpa's house for the kids. But for her and I it would mean the end to a close and loving relationship we had spent the last few years building.

As the conversation progressed I fought hard to hold back the tears. Tina seemed so happy and I did not want to ruin her moment. After hanging up the phone, I quietly retreated to my room. There with pen and journal in hand I poured out my heart. "How could she leave?" I thought. "In those few short years we had gone through so much, what would I do without my friend?"

That day I realized how deeply I cared for Tina. For the first time I saw the blessing her friendship had been to me. Then my heart pondered through to my other relationships. Vividly, I began to see the beauty that each of them held. This closer look created a yearning within me. I desired to reach out to my friends and express my gratitude. From that moment I determined to become a better friend, directing my focus to establishing stronger and healthier relationships with them.

Five ways to improve friendship

Here are five ways I discovered to help me to improve my friendship:

(1) Don't expect one friend to meet all your needs. In their book, *What Every Mom Needs*, Elisa Morgan and Carol Kuykendall wrote, "...just as no marriage can meet our every need for intimacy, neither can a single friendship. " It is essential that we look to more than one friend to meet our special needs for intimacy. When we look to only one friend to meet all of our needs, we run the risk of becoming too dependent on her friendship. This may cause us to expect more from her than that she is capable or even