

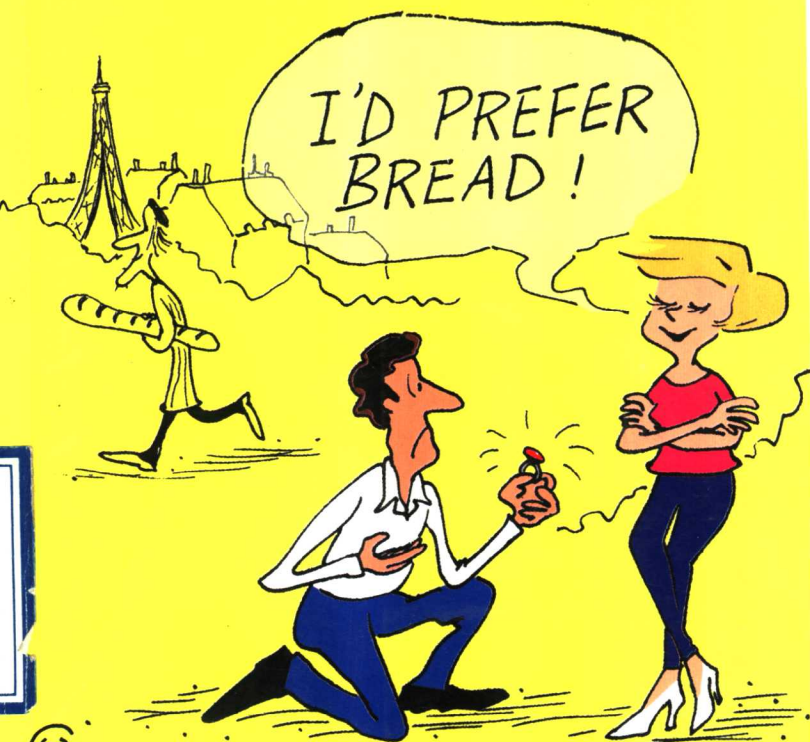
MODERN COLLOQUIAL ENGLISH

大话

西洋口语

MODERN COLLOQUIAL ENGLISH

JOHN & CHING YEE SMITHBACK



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大话西洋口语

MODERN COLLOQUIAL ENGLISH

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PREFACE

MODERN COLLOQUIAL ENGLISH

Some time ago I read an amusing comment in one of my reference books, but try as I might I can't find it now. So I will attempt to repeat it from memory and hope that the writer—if he should read this work—will forgive me for not giving him credit for it.

The remarks I have in mind were in a book relating to the use of ordinary English, which is to say the kind of English used in everyday informal speech. By extension, it's the kind of English we find in our daily newspapers, hear in films and on television, and read in modern novels.

Someone had asked the author to define the meaning of *colloquial*. "It is a term used so often, yet I don't know how to distinguish colloquial English from any other English," the person said to him. "I often see it in the dictionary, where it is abbreviated as *colloq*, yet how can I know when I am hearing it?" he asked.

The author thought for a moment and then said: "There's nothing mysterious or extraordinary about *colloq*," he replied. "I use *colloq* all the time. In fact, most of the people I know speak *colloq*."

That brought a smile to my lips because by its very definition *colloquial* (or *colloq*.) means "speech

belonging to or proper to ordinary familiar conversation." So if you are not speaking formally, you are speaking *colloq*—which means, of course, that you are speaking it nearly all the time.

What follows in this book is a collection of colloquial phrases and expressions that you are likely to hear in everyday conversation. And, as the man said, there is nothing mysterious or extraordinary about them. They are used all the time and they are commonly understood by almost everyone who speaks English. Like the seasoning we put in our food to give it flavour, colloquialisms add colour and vitality to the way we speak. Take a look and see if you, too, don't find yourself suddenly speaking *colloq*!

John B. Smithback

前言

学习外语,必须在“写、讲、听”三方面下功夫。中国人以英语为第一外语,学校给我们灌输的是标准英语。我们一般要用死记硬背的形式学习十多年,在书写方面还应付得来,可是在讲和听的方面,就可能显得很吃力。

日常英语中经常出现的口语,不但言简意赅,而且意趣盎然,是在课堂里学习不到的。它们是一些妙语双关、不能够望文生义的常用单词、词组或完整的句子,我们一旦在电影、电视、书报刊物及会话中接触到它们,就会莫名其妙,感到吃不消。

亚庄撰写本书的目的,就是希望运用风趣的文字、例句和小测验轻轻松松地引导你自学活用现代口语,借此可提高“写、讲、听”的水平。

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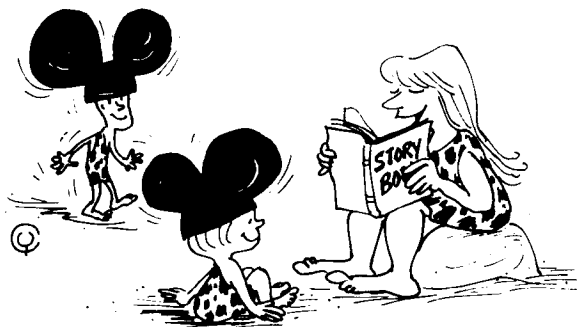
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Modern Colloquial English

ALL EARS



Irma enjoys reading. "I really do. I especially like reading to my friends," she said, "because when I do they sit very, very quiet and are **all ears**." When someone is **all ears**, he or she is listening with complete attention.

enjoy reading 喜爱阅读

quiet 安静的

complete attention 全部的注意力

especially 尤其

listen 倾听