

英汉对照
IN ENGLISH & CHINESE

西方风情系列读本



礼仪与风俗

Etiquette and Custom

钱 清 / 编译



外文出版社
FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS

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出版者的话

本着为具有初、中级水平的英语学习者提供一套实用、有效地了解西方文化的阅读丛书的目的,我们特邀北京大学、首都师范大学、北京工商大学的专业人士,着手编译了这套“西方风情系列读本”,即**《礼仪与风俗》、《节日与婚礼》、《饮食与生活》、《时尚与休闲》**四册。每册由30篇左右的相关文章组成,每篇文章包括英文原文、中文译文、注释三部分。

《礼仪与风俗》:去美国人家拜访要注意什么样的礼节?丹麦人的习俗是什么?澳大利亚人热衷于谈论什么样的话题?…去深入了解一下,你会对不同民族的风土人情有更直观的认识。

《节日与婚礼》:不论是复活节的彩蛋,还是感恩节的故事,或是旧时的芬兰结婚礼俗,都会使你感受到一种古老西方文化的积淀。

《饮食与生活》:充满艺术气息的意大利美食、值得纪念的瑞士饭菜、由美食而触发的种种情感…通过对主要西方国家的人们生活点滴的捕捉,使你了解其文化中最精细的一面。

《时尚与休闲》:及时享乐生活的澳大利亚人、嗜宠物如命的美国人、充满风情的巴黎人…他们的兴趣爱好,他们的休闲时光,让你从中领略西方文化中的轻松与雅致。

本系列书突出**趣味性强、话题新颖、信息量大、语言精辟**的风格。读者既可从中学习语言的要点,扩大词汇量,提高阅读技能,更可将其作为一扇敞开的窗,在了解古老西方文化的同时,感受其现代生活的多姿多彩。

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Watch Your Body Language

I'm never bored at airports. Quite the reverse. I visit them like other people go to the ballet. To a manwatcher[■], there's nothing more fascinating than observing citizens of many different nationalities mingling[■] and exchanging body signals. And nowhere is this performance so enjoyable as at Heathrow, the world's top international airport. Day and night, they pour in, a cast of 62 million a year from every corner of the globe.

Where else but Heathrow could you hope to see Brazilians rubbing shoulders with Brahmins[■], Poles with Polynesians[■], and Nepalese[■] with Neapolitans[■]?

Each nationality has its own body language.

But since these body lingos[■] are mutually incomprehensible[■], and innocent gesture made in an airport lounge[■] may well be an unwitting[■] insult, and lead to serious misunderstandings.

Something in your eye? Think before you touch the lower lid. If a Saudi[■] sees you, he'll think you're calling him stupid; but a South American senorita[■] will think that you're making a pass at[■] her, and may slap your face.

To a Saudi this is insulting. But to an Italian, it is a great compliment.

1 manwatcher *n.* 观
看别人的

2 mingle /'mɪŋɡl/
v. 使混合

3 Brahmin
/'brɑːmɪn/*n.* (印度)

4 Polynesian
/ˌpɒlɪˈniːziən/
n. 波利尼西亚人

5 Nepalese /nepəˈliːz/
n. 尼泊尔人

6 Neapolitan
/niəˈpɒlɪtən/*n.* (意大利) 那不勒斯人

7 Lingo /'lɪŋɡən/*n.*
方言, 行话, 隐语

8 incomprehensible
/ɪnˈkɒmpriˈhensəbəl/
adj. 不能理解的

9 lounge /laundʒ/
n. 闲逛, 休闲室,
长沙发

10 unwitting
/ˌɪnˈwɪtɪŋ/*adj.* 不知
情的

11 Saudi /ˌsaudi/
adj. 沙特阿拉伯人
的, 沙特阿拉伯国
家的

12 Senorita
/ˌsenjəˈrɪtə/*n.* 小
姐, 女士

13 make a pass at sb
调戏某人

留意你的肢体语言

我从未在机场感觉无聊过, 恰恰相反, 我光顾那里就像人们去看芭蕾舞演出一样。对于喜欢观察别人的人来说, 再没有比观看来自不同国度的人同时展示肢体语言更有趣的事情了。希斯罗机场——世界最棒的国际大机场——自然是最佳欣赏去处。每天, 世界各地的人们进出该机场, 年客流量约六千两百万人次。

只有在希斯罗机场, 你才能看见巴西人和印度人、波兰人和波利尼西亚人或尼泊尔人和那不勒斯坦人接踵摩肩。

每个国家的人都有各自的肢体语言。

但是由于人们并不了解对方的肢体语言, 在机场候机的你一个无心的手势也许就构成了对他人的侮辱, 引起对方极大的误解。

眼睛里进东西了? 在手碰到下眼睑前一定要思量一下。如果沙特阿拉伯人看见你这个动作, 会认为你在骂他傻, 而南美的未婚女子会认为你在调戏她, 而给你一记耳光。

可是, 这个令阿拉伯人感到冒犯的手势在意大利人看来却是极大的赞扬。

There is no greater insult you can offer a Greek than to thrust your palms towards his face. This gesture, called the “moutza”, is descended[■] from the old Byzantine custom of smearing[■] filth from the gutter[■] in the faces of criminals as they were led in chains through the city.

So vile is this insult that in Greece, even the Victory “V” sign, used by Winston Churchill during the Second World War, is taboo, as it looks like a half “moutza”. Thus the Greek traveler, ordering two teas in a Heathrow restaurant, will carefully reverse his palm and give the waiter two fingers — a deadly[■] insult in Britain. With 22, 600 orders of cups of tea open to misinterpretation every day, the wonder is the place functions at all!

It is so easy to give offence[■]. Suppose a passenger asks the Information Desk where he should pay his airport tax. Now the good news is that at Heathrow, unlike many airports I could name, passengers don't pay any airport taxes. But just as the Information Assistant begins to say so, she is assailed[■] by a tremendous itch and tugs at her earlobe[■].

Astonishing thought it may seem, this simple gesture means five different things in five different Mediterranean[■] countries. Depending on his nationality, the Assistant has offered the passenger the following insults:

To a Spaniard: “You rotten sponger[■].”

To a Maltese: “You're a sneaky little so-and-so.”





14 descend /di'send/

v. 下去

15 smear /smiə/

v. 涂污, 诽谤, 抹去

16 gutter /'gʌtə/

n. 阴沟

17 deadly /'dedli/

adj. 致命的, 势不两立的

18 give offence 冒犯

19 assail /ə'seɪl/

v. 攻击, 质问

20 earlobe /'iələʊb/

n. 耳垂

21 Mediterranean

/ˌmedɪtə'reɪniən/

adj. 地中海的, 地中海民族的

22 sponger /'spɒndʒə/

n. 寄生虫

对于希腊人来说, 最大的侮辱莫过于别人把手掌伸向他的脸。这个希腊语里叫“抹脏”的手势, 源于拜占廷时期往穿街而过的囚犯脸上涂抹阴沟里的污物的传统。

对于希腊人来说, 这个手势是非常之大不敬, 甚至连温斯顿·丘吉尔在二战时用的表示胜利的“V”字手势都因为像半个“抹脏”而成为禁忌手势。因此希腊旅客在希斯罗的餐馆点两杯茶时, 通常会小心翼翼地把手掌朝内, 向侍者伸出两个指头, 然而这却是一个让英国人感觉受侮辱的手势。每天, 会有两万两千六百杯茶被售出, 而客人要点茶水的手势是否可能引起别人的误解, 关键要看对方来自何地。

无意的冒犯经常发生。假设一个旅客在问讯处询问在哪儿交机场建设费。幸好希斯罗机场和其他我所知的机场不同, 不需要交机场建设费。就在问讯处人员准备回答时, 她突然感觉耳朵奇痒难忍, 于是就拽了拽耳垂。

令人不可思议的是这个举动在五个地中海国家, 竟然有五种不同的意义。对于不同国家的人, 这位服务人员的手势有不同的侮辱性含义:

对于西班牙人, 它的意思是: “你这个没用的寄生虫!”

对于马耳他人, 意思是: “你是个鬼鬼祟祟的家伙。”

To a Greek: "You'd better watch it, mate!"

To an Italian: "Get lost, you pansy[■]."

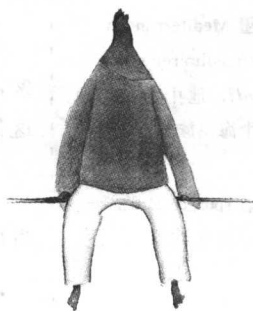
Only a Portuguese, (to whom the gesture means something ineffably[■] wonderful) would hang around long enough to hear the answer.

A Sardinian woman asks if it is easy to find a taxi from Heathrow. The answer she gets is a cheery British thumbs up[■] (very likely from one of the 900 cabbies[■] who serve the airport on an average day.) Immediately, in great disgust, she hits the unfortunate man with her handbag for making such a devastatingly[■] obscene suggestion. This is why, incidentally, it is inadvisable[■] to hitch-hike[■] in Sardinia[■].

A Japanese asks an American passenger whether Heathrow has a luggage trolley service. It has. And as it happens, this service is not only first class, but free! So the American replies with the famous "A-OK" gesture. But to the Japanese, this signifies "money", and he concludes that there is a charge for this service.

Meanwhile, a Tunisian on-looker thinks that the American is telling the Japanese that he is a worthless rogue and he is going to kill him.

The ring-gesture can have further meanings. A Frenchman has just read a BAA advertisement. Glancing round the restaurant at Terminal 4, he remarks





23 pansy /'pænzɪ/

n. (植) 三色紫罗兰, (俚) 脂粉气男子, 同性恋男子

24 ineffably

/in'efəbəli/adv. 难以言喻地

25 thumbs up 竖起拇指

26 cabbies /'kæbiz/

n. 计程车

27 devastatingly

/ˈdevəsteɪtɪŋli/
adv. 破坏性地

28 inadvisable

/ɪnəd'vaɪzəbəl/
adj. 失策的

29 hitchhike

/ˈhɪtʃhaɪk/v. 搭便车

30 Sardinia

/sɑːˈdɪnjə/n. 撒丁岛

对于希腊人,意味着:“伙计,小心点!”

对于意大利人,意思是:“走开,你这个不男不女的家伙。”

只有葡萄牙人(在他们看来这是一个非常好的手势)会耐心地听完服务员的话。

如果一位来自撒丁的妇女询问从希斯罗机场打车是否容易,有人就可能会很爽快地竖起拇指向她示意(很可能是平时为机场服务的那九百辆出租车司机中的一位)。而这在她看来却是一个极下流的动作,气愤之极的她会立刻用手提包打这个无辜的人。这恰好解释了为何在撒丁岛最好不要随便搭便车。

如果一个日本人向美国旅客询问希斯罗机场是否有行李手推车。事实上,希斯罗的这项服务不仅是一流的,而且是免费的。于是美国人做了一个著名的“OK”手势。但对日本人来说该手势表示“钱”,他因此得出结论:这是项收费服务。

而在旁边看见这一幕的突尼斯人会认为美国人在骂日本人是没用的混蛋,并威胁说要杀了他。

这个圈形手势的含义还不止于此。有个法国人刚刚看过BAA的广告,转眼瞥见希斯罗机场第四出口处的饭馆,就对妻子说:“知道

wonderingly to his wife “You know how much this airport cost the British taxpayer? Not a sou[■].” And he makes the finger and thumb ring which to him means “zero”.

Unfortunately, at the time he is glancing at a Colombian who is enjoying a fine Burgundy[■] with his delicious steak. The Colombian, enraged by the deadly obscenity which he assumes is directed at him, chokes[■] on his wine and catches at his nose with his finger and thumb.

This appalls a Syrian sitting opposite, who thinks the Colombian is telling him to “go to hell.” The Syrian is restrained with difficulty by his Greek colleague from getting up and punching the Colombian on the nose. Meanwhile the headwaiter hurries over and diplomatically attempts to calm the situation with two out-thrust palms. This of course is taken by the Greek to be a double “moutza”, and in his rage he promptly skewers[■] the unfortunate man with his fish knife.

Of course, I am exaggerating to make a point, but I do find it astonishing that Heathrow receives only eight complaints per 100,000 passengers. Keeping the lid on[■] this simmering[■] rum-punch[■] of international emotions must take every bit as much skill as running the United Nations. But even if you're never treated to such a chaos of misunderstandings, the Heathrow scene is never dull.

Eyes peeled, next time you're there.



31 sou /su:/ *n.* 无价值之物

32 Burgundy /'bɜ:gəndi/ *n.* 勃艮第

33 choke /tʃəuk/ *v.* 窒息, 哽住

34 skewer /'skju:ə/ *v.* 用串肉钎把肉串起来

35 keep the lid on 限制

36 simmer /'sɪmə/ *v.* 慢煮, 煨, 炖

37 rum-punch /'rʌmpʌntʃ/ *n.* 大冲击

英国纳税人花了多少钱建这机场吗? 一分钱没花。”他边说边用食指和拇指做成环状来表示“零”。

不幸的是, 他这么做的同时刚好瞟了一眼那位正在享用美味牛排和上好布冈迪酒的哥伦比亚人, 于是哥伦比亚人愤怒地认为这个在他看来极具侮辱性的动作是针对他, 他不禁被酒呛住了, 接着用食指和拇指捂住鼻子。

这惊扰了坐在对面的叙利亚人, 他认为哥伦比亚人意思是叫他“见鬼去”。叙利亚人拼命想挣脱他希腊同伴的拉拽, 想跳起来给哥伦比亚人一拳。这时候, 领班跑过来, 伸出两个手掌企图平息这场纠纷, 这却又被希腊人看做两个“抹脏”手势, 一怒之下把切鱼的刀向领班刺去。

当然, 我为了说明这一切使用了些夸张手法, 但是我惊讶地发现在希斯罗每十万人里只有八个旅客会投诉。控制机场里发生的各种情绪冲突真的需要具有主持联合国一般的技巧。即使从未遇见过这么多误解, 希斯罗机场发生的一幕幕也永不会让你感觉无聊。

下次你再去那里, 要把眼睛擦亮点。

Dinning with Americans

American restaurants are all the same. They prepare food in only three ways: boiled in water, grilled[■], and deep-fried[■]; apart from these there is no other variety. Then, on the table a lot of “condiments[■]” are served, so that customers can make things as sweet, salty, sour or peppery[■] as they like. All over the whole country food stands on the street sell the same hot dogs, Hamburgers, sandwiches, French fries, and so on; wherever you go the taste is the same.

Especially for someone who has just arrived in America, the sight of a hot dog dripping with red tomato sauce and yellow mustard is enough to take your appetite away. But when you are hungry, there is nothing to do but close your eyes and swallow it. Hamburgers are even worse: semi-raw[■] beef with a slice of raw onion[■] and a slice of raw tomato, and then some hamburger sauce — one dares not try it. sandwiches sound good, but are in fact tasteless. So eating is the most troubling aspect of living in America.

Being invited to dinner is a big treat for Americans, but I find it a painful assignment[■]. First, I cannot get used to eating sweet and salty things together. Second, terrible-tasting food must be praised to the skies. Third, it is not filling, and you have to make yourself another meal after going home.