

# 实用美国英语口语

## Survival Dialogs in American English

(中)高霭群 (美)N. E. Dollahite 编



外语教学与研究出版社

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**封面设计：郭晓英**

**实用美国英语口语**

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## PREFACE

Living in another culture stretches your mind and heart, sometimes almost more than you can bear.

There is no way to avoid these "growing pains" but some of the minor difficulties can be eased by proper preparation. In writing these dialogs, we hope to smooth your way as you begin to live, study and work in an English-speaking society.

We have selected eighteen general topics, eighteen survival situations which will be encountered by most Chinese going to the U. S. on an academic exchange. Under each, we have created two to four short dialogs using the colloquial vocabulary and sentence patterns Americans would use in these situations. Once you have memorised the basic vocabulary and sentence patterns, you can improvise to fit the situation. Our main purpose is to give you practice in ordinary situations so that you feel confident in expressing certain ideas when you reach America.

The cultural notes which follow each dialog are what make this text unique. Drawing from our individual experiences and our mutual fascination with crosscultural encounters, we try to explain why an American will behave in certain way and, therefore, how a Chinese should act in order to communicate the desired idea. Recognizing that *how* something is said is sometimes even more important than *what*

is said, we have tried to consider how each situation will look to a Chinese and to an American. Developing a crosscultural perspective is a frame of mind vitally necessary to today's world. Let us begin in these small ways and, with full patience and good will, we will come to recognize our similarities and to be tolerant of our differences.

Gao Aiqun  
Nancy Dollahite

## 前言

生活在异国的拘谨,不安和紧张,有时简直让你无法忍受。而“开头难”更是在所难免。不过,只要你有所准备,一些小小的困难是可以迎刃而解的。我们写这些对话,是希望能帮助你顺利地开始你在英语国家的生活,学习和工作。

本书选了十八个一般的题目:十八个绝大多数去美国的中国学者都会遇到的应急情景。在每一个题目下,编写了二至四个简短的对话。对话中所用的通俗的词汇和句型,都是美国人在此类情景中常常用到的。我们的主要目的是给你提供操练的一般场合。这样,当你到达美国,想表达你的某种意思的时候,你就会感到有把握,有信心。你一旦记住了基本词汇和句型,你便能够临场发挥。

在每个对话后面的文化背景注释,使这个课本独具一格。从我们各人的经历及我们对跨文化接触的共同兴趣,我们想说明(通过对话和注释)为什么美国人的举止会是那样,而中国人又要如何行事才能达到表达和交流思想的目的。怎样说和说什么比起来,有时候前者比后者更为重要;所以,我们尽力考虑每一种情景在美国人眼中和中国人眼中会有怎样的差异。

培养跨文化的观点,是当今世界人心之所必需。让我们从小处做起,只要有充分的耐心和良好的愿望,我们必能求同存异,互相理解和宽容。

(中国)高霭群

(美国)南希·多拉海特

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# Lesson One

## Arriving

### Part I: Traveling

*The traveler (abbr. TRAV.) approaches a ticket counter.*

TRAV. Excuse me. Can you help me?

CLERK Yes?

TRAV. I have a ticket to Seattle. How do I get there?

CLERK I can't help you here. You have to go to the ticket counter. Follow this corridor to the end turn left and go three hundred yards. You'll see a sign that says, "Check-in". Then look for the airline you want.

TRAV. Can you repeat that, please?

CLERK Sure. Go down this hall till you come to the end. Go left till you see the big sign overhead, "Check-in". There'll be lots of counters for the different airlines. You go to the one where you have your ticket.

TRAV. Go down this hall to the end. Then go left?

CLERK That's right. Here, I'll draw you a map. Sometimes it's confusing.

TRAV. Down this hall. Then left. Then look for the sign "Check-in". Then to a ticket counter?

CLERK That's right.

TRAV. Thanks.

CLERK Sure thing.

*At a ticket counter...*

TRAV. Excuse me.

CLERK Yes, can I help you?

TRAV. Yes, I have a ticket to Seattle. How do I get there as soon as possible?

CLERK What airline are you on?

TRAV. C.A.A.C.

CLERK Oh, we don't take tickets from C.A.A.C.  
You'll have to go to United.

TRAV. Where is that?

CLERK Well, you see that man with the green backpack?

TRAV. Yes.

CLERK Just beyond him is the United counter.  
They'll help you there.

TRAV. Thanks.

CLERK Sure.

*At another ticket counter*

TRAV. Excuse me.

CLERK What can I do for you?

TRAV. I have a ticket to Seattle. How can I get there as soon as possible?

CLERK Let's see. What airline is it on? Oh, China Air. That's all right. I'll see what we have this afternoon. Yes, here we are. There's a flight leaving at 2:40, getting in at 5:15. Is that O.K.?

TRAV. That's fine.

CLERK All right. I'll just change your ticket.  
There, it's all set. Do you have baggage to check in?

TRAV. Here's my baggage.

CLERK Just put it here.

TRAV. Can I take this as a carry-on?

CLERK Yes, that's fine. No problem. Here's your ticket and your boarding pass. It leaves from gate 54. Be there fifteen minutes before departure.

TRAV. Thank you very much.

CLERK You're welcome. Have a good trip.

注释:

1. check-in 登记处
2. sure thing or sure 没关系
3. What airline are you on? 你是哪个航空公司的票?
4. What airline is it on? 哪个航空公司的票?
5. CAAC = Civil Aviation Administration of China 中国民航
6. United = US Air Incorporated 美国联合航空公司
7. China Air 中国民航的俗称
8. There, it's all set. 好, 都办完了.
9. Do you have baggage to check in? 你有行李要托运吗?
10. carry-on 手提小件行李.
11. boarding pass (card) 登机牌
12. It leaves at gate 54. 从 54 门出去登机.

Cultural Notes:

1. In the U.S. people have different titles according to their jobs or even according to different situations in which you meet them. Therefore do not attempt to address a stranger by title; it is always better to say, "Excuse me" to get someone's attention. In this way you will never use the wrong title and you will always be understood.
2. Many Americans are not accustomed to talking with people

from different countries, and treat foreigners in a patronizing way. In asking directions, ask once to have it repeated. After that, asking to have it repeated will confirm the American's idea that you do not understand English very well, so it is more effective to carefully repeat as much as you can of what you think you heard. The American will then realize that he has been speaking rather fast and indistinctly and will probably explain again more patiently than if you had asked for several repetitions.

3. Not all American airlines take Chinese airline tickets. You may have to inquire in several places before you find one that will accept your ticket. When you find one, the clerk will arrange to get you on a flight.

**文化背景注释:**

1. 在美国,由于职业或相逢场合的不同,人们的称谓也不一样。所以,在和生人打招呼的时候,不要想着用什么头衔,较好的办法是说“对不起”以引起对方的注意。这样就绝不至于用错称呼,而且别人也会理解你的用意。
2. 很多美国人不太习惯同来自不同国家的人交谈。他们同外国人说话时往往有一种屈尊的姿态。问路时,只让别人重复一次。以后如果再要求重复就会加深美国人那种你不太懂英语的看法。有效的办法是,尽量留心重复你听懂的部分。这样,他就会意识到是他说得太快,不清楚。他也许能更耐心地向你解释。这比你不断要求重复好得多。
3. 不是所有的美国航空公司都接受中国民航的机票。你可能要问好几个地方才能找到接受你的机票的公司。一旦找到,工作人员会安排你乘上飞机。

## **Part II: Prepare for the Worst**

*Ms. Guo makes a phone call to the person who is supposed to meet her.*

**MS. GUO** Hello. Is this Mr. Jones?

**MR. JONES** Yes. this is Gary Jones.

**MS. GUO** This is Ms. Guo from Sichuan For-

eign Language Institute.

MR. JONES Yes. Hello, how are you?

MS. GUO I am fine. I'm in Seattle at the airport. I just want to check whether someone will meet me in Pullman.

MR. JONES Oh, I think so. What time do you arrive?

MS. GUO Six-thirty. It's flight 372 on Cascade.

MR. JONES We'll be there. See you then.

MS. GUO Thanks. Goodbye.

MR. JONES Goodbye.

注释:

1. I just want to check whether someone will meet me in Pullman. 我只是想问问是不是有人在普尔曼接我。
2. It's flight 372 on Cascade. 是喀斯喀特公司的 372 号班机。

*Cultural Notes:*

1. Americans pride themselves on being capable and expect everyone else to behave the same way. They may forget to provide for your comfort. In spite of the most careful plans, you may find yourself in a difficult situation; you may arrive and find no one to meet you, or that you have no place to stay and nothing to eat. In this situation you should phone the contact name you have been given. Your American contact may not realize that you have a problem but will gladly help when you request assistance.
2. A pay phone will be available at the airport. You will need 25 ¢ in a quarter or dimes and nickels; the phone will not take bills or pennies. If you do not have the proper change, you can change your money either in a change machine or at a sales counter.
3. On the other hand, if your plane is late, you do not need to worry about informing the people who will meet you. Your contacts will find out about changes by phoning the airport before they leave home so that they will not be wasting time

waiting for you.

文化背景注释:

1. 美国人以自己的能干自居,也希望别人也能这样。他们有时会忽略为你提供某些生活条件。尽管有详尽的安排,你还可能遇到困难。你可能到了一个地方没人来接你,或者没地方住,没东西吃。在这种情况下,你可以打电话给你的联系人。他可能不知道你有困难。不过,只要你要求帮助,他是乐意帮忙的。
2. 在机场有公用电话。你需准备 25 美分即 25 分或 10 分和 5 分的硬币。打电话不用纸币或 1 分的硬币。如果你没有零钱,你可以到换钱机或卖东西的柜台去换。
3. 另外,如果你的飞机晚点,你用不着担心如何通知接你的人。他们在离家之前会打电话去机场。他们不会为等你而浪费时间。



## Lesson Two

### Making Business Arrangements

#### Part I: Meeting Officials

*Ms. Gao goes to the foreign student office and speaks first to the secretary MS MAKIN in the office.*

MS. GAO Hello. Excuse me. I am Ms. Gao. I have a note from Ms. Makin. Can I see her?

MS. MAKIN Yes, Ms. Gao. Welcome. Won't you have a seat?

MS. GAO Thanks.

MS. MAKIN Hello, Ms. Gao. I am Mary Makin. Please step into my office.

MS. GAO And I am Gao Xiaolin. Please call me Ms. Gao.

MS. MAKIN How are you getting along?

MS. GAO Fine. Everyone is very kind.

MS. MAKIN Good. Let me give you these forms to fill out. Just leave them with Laurie when you are finished.

MS. GAO Do you need them filled out right now?

MS. MAKIN No, no. Just drop them by anytime this week. Now let me introduce you to Dr. Brown in the Foreign Language Department.