

American Culture Through Speech

美国文化——美国英语会话

原著 **Lynn
Hammer—
Merle**

编译 韩 谦
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前 言

本书原名“Pratiquez L'Américain”，是一本美国英语口语及旅游教材，编者是Lynn Hammer-Merle等。我们把它编译出来，改名为“American Culture Through Speech”，献给我国读者。

本书内容丰富。它从生活和旅游的角度，以对话形式详尽地介绍了美国人民生活的真实情况。虽然不能说包罗万象，但基本上包括了日常生活的各个方面。它教给读者的不仅是去美国学习、访问或旅游所必具的语言技能，同时还有不可缺少的生活知识。

语言是地道的美国口语，有“美国味”。本书充分体现了美国英语口语教材必须具备的这一语言特点。

书中提供的种种“背景知识”，本身就是一篇篇极好的小文章。读者从中既能了解有关的文化历史及风土人情，又能学习语言。“背景知识”是内容的有机组成部分，这是本书又一特点。

此外，从语言学的角度介绍英国英语和美国英语在语音、词汇、语法等方面的不同，亦给本书增色不少。

凡此种种，都会引起中国读者的兴趣，并从中受益。

全书共40课，每课包括9个部分：

对话

注释

美国英语和英国英语的不同

背景知识和中译文

句型

词汇

补充词汇

练习

练习答案

本书的对话部分配有录音，由美国朋友录制。

书后附有若干附录。

我们的编译难免有疏漏之处，衷心希望广大读者批评指正。

编译者

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Appendix

American English

Religions

The 50 States of the United States and their
capitals

Money, Weights, Measures and Temperature

The Language of media

Vocabulary

Information¹, please?

C: caller O: operator

C—Hello, operator²?

O—Yes. Can I help you?

C—Yes. Can you give me the number of a Mr. Jackson³, in Los Angeles, please?

O—That's a long distance call. You'll have to call Los Angeles Information.

C—Could you please give me the area code? I don't have⁴ a directory.

O—Just a minute... The area code for Los Angeles is 213⁵.

C—Is it possible for you to make the call⁶ for me?

O—No, I can't. You can do it yourself quite easily. Just dial⁷ 213.555.1212⁸ and the information operator will give you the number.

C—Hello, information?

O—Yes. What city are you calling?

C—L. A.... Please give me the number of a Mr. Jackson, 5816 Western Avenue⁹.

O—Surely, just a moment please. Have you got¹⁰

the first name¹¹?

C—I think it's John.

O—John. Is that North or **South**¹² Western Ave.?

C—I'm afraid¹³ I don't know. Does it really matter?

O—Well, Jackson isn't exactly an unusual name.

I've got two Jacksons¹⁴ on Western. What's the middle initial?

C—Sorry, I don't know. Could you give me both numbers¹⁵, if you don't mind.

O—Sure. 877.2059 and 877.5238.

C—Thanks operator. Would you be so kind as to¹⁶ put the call through¹⁷ for me?

O—You can dial it direct. First the area code, then your number.

C—Alright¹⁸. What time is it now in Los Angeles?

O—It's 6 o'clock in the morning.

C—Really? Three hours' difference¹⁹? Well, then,

I'd better wait²⁰ a while²¹ before I call.

O—That's up to you²².

operator ['ɒpəreɪtə]

Los Angeles

[lə:s'ændʒələs]

information [ɪnfə'meɪʃən]

area code ['ɛəriə kəʊd]

dial ['daɪəl]

ave(nue)

['ævɪnju:]

unusual

[ʌ'nju:ʒuəl]

initial [ɪ'nɪʃəl]

directory [di'rektəri]

difference
['difərəns]

Notes

1. information 作消息讲时永远用单数, 如 Information is available... a piece of information.
2. Operator 打电话时对交换台接线员的称呼。
3. a Mr. Jackson 表示某一个姓杰克逊先生。
4. I don't have 我没有……have 在这里表示“拥有”的意思。
5. 213 读作 two one three.
6. make the call 打电话。
7. just dial 只要拨……就行了。To dial, 拨号, dial (自动电话的) 拨号盘 dialling tone 拨号音 dial tone (US) 拨号音。
8. 213.555.1212 读作 two one three five five five one two one two.
9. 5816 Western Avenue 读作 fifty-eight sixteen Western Avenue.
10. Have you got 你有……, (用于非正式文体)。Have you got some change? 你有零钱吗?
11. the first name 美国人习惯把名字放在前面 (经常是开头字母形式), first name, middle name, last name 名字—当中名字—姓。
12. North or South 在美国大城市中, 因街道太长, 所以把街道从街中心起分成南街, 北街, 东街, 西街。

13. I'm afraid 表示“不知道”，“拒绝”和“不愉快”等有礼貌的句型。如 I'm afraid I don't know; I'm afraid I can't; I'm afraid it's too late.
14. two Jacksons 两个姓要用复数。
15. both numbers 在 both 前永不加冠词。
16. Would you be so kind as to... 是一个有礼貌的请求某人做某事的句型，可译为“劳您驾，您能否...”。
17. to put through 是接通的意思。如 Could you put me through to extension 205? 您能给我接通205分机吗？
18. alright=all right.
19. three hours' difference 这里 hours' 是所有格。也可以说：there's a three-hour difference 其中 three-hour 做形容词。
20. I'd better wait, I'd better 后要用动词原形，意思是“我最好……”。
21. a while 一会儿。
22. That's up to you, it's up to you 这要你自己决定或随你的便。

American English & British English

Terms Differences

US	GB
information	directory inquiries 消息；问讯处

area code	local code, STD code 电 话分区代号
to dial direct	to dial direct 或 to dial (on)STD(subscriber trunk dialling)直拨
dial tone	dialling tone 拨号声
the line's busy	the line's engaged 占线
long distance call	trunk call 长途电话

Usages Differences

sure, surely of course, certainly 当然

Spelling Differences

US to dial dialed dialing

GB to dial dialled dialling

Pronunciation Differences

	US	GB
can't	[kænt]	[kɑ:nt]
city	[sɪdi]	[sɪti]

Background

Using the telephone in the United Kingdom
and the United States.

In the United States the telephone system
is the property of private companies (or

utility companies) which operate a public service, and also exist for the distribution of water, gas, electricity, etc. The most famous of them is the Bell Telephone Company. In Britain, it is the monopoly of the recently created (1980) public corporation*, British Telecommunications.

In practice, however, there are few differences in terms of the services offered by the two systems. Calls can be paid by special credit card in both countries. But the American user is perhaps more trustworthy or, at any rate, more trusted, than his British counterpart. The former can, when phoning from a public phone-box (but also from another subscriber's number) have the charge credited to his home phone, simply by giving his name, address and phone number. This facility, which is obviously open to abuse, is not available in Britain.

英国和美国的电话使用情况

在美国,电话系统是私营公司所有,私营公司提供公共服务,也供水、供煤气、供电。其中最有名的公司是贝尔电话公司。在英国是由1980年建立的一家,名叫“英国电讯”的公共公司所垄断。

从服务的角度来看,这两种体系没有什么区别。电话费在

英美都可以使用一种特殊的信用卡支付。但在美国,不论在任何情况下,电话使用者比其英国的电话使用者更可信赖。打电话人从公用电话间或从另外的电话用户打电话,只要告诉他的姓名、地址和电话号码,电话公司就可以把帐记到他家的电话帐单上。这种显然很容易被人使用的便利,在英国没有。

Patterns

1. Will you accept a collect call from Mr...?
2. I'm afraid the line's still busy.
3. Wait till you hear the dial tone.
4. You can dial it direct.
5. How do I get information?
6. Could you tell me the area-code for Chicago?
7. Your party doesn't reply.
8. I'd like to place a call to San Diego, 855.1022..
9. We've been cut off!
10. Who is speaking please?
11. Can you put me through to extension 303 please?
12. You've got the wrong number.
13. Will you accept the charges?
14. Hold the line please.
15. Can you call back later?
16. Can you spell it for me please?
17. Has anyone left a message?
18. I'd like to make a collect call to France.
19. Hang on! I'll get her for you.

20. Dial 8 for outgoing calls.

21. Go ahead caller, your party's on the line.

Vocabulary

information 消息; 问讯处

caller 打电话者

operator 接线员

long distance call 长途电话

area code 电话分区代号

directory 电话簿

to make (to place) a call 打电话

to dial 拨号

to call 电话, 通话, 呼叫

to put through 接通

to dial direct 直拨

the line's busy (US), the line's engaged (GB) 占线

surname 姓; 别名

trustworthy 值得信赖的、可信任的

to operate 操作; 工作; 开动

counterpart 对方

public phone box 公用电话间

charge 收费

to credit 把……记入贷方

subscriber 电话用户

to hold the line 不要挂上、稍等

to make a collect call 打受话人付费电话

hang on; }
hold on; } 不要挂上, 稍等

to cut off 中断

extensior 分机

outgoing calls 外线

party 对方

to be on the line 在接电话(指对方)

Supplementary Vocabulary

answering service 受话一方不在的电话服务

answering system, answer phone 自动回答装置

answer (to) the phone 接电话

be (to) through (US), to have finished (GB) 结束,
用完或打完

busy signal (US), busy tone (GB) 占线声音

call (to) collect, to make a collect call (US), to re-
verse the charges, to make a reverse charge call
(GB) 打接电话方付费电话

dial tone (US), dialling tone (GB) 拨号声音(表示可
以拨号了)

hang (to) up 挂上

inquiries (GB) 询问

local code 电话分区代号

look (to) up (a number) 查电话号码