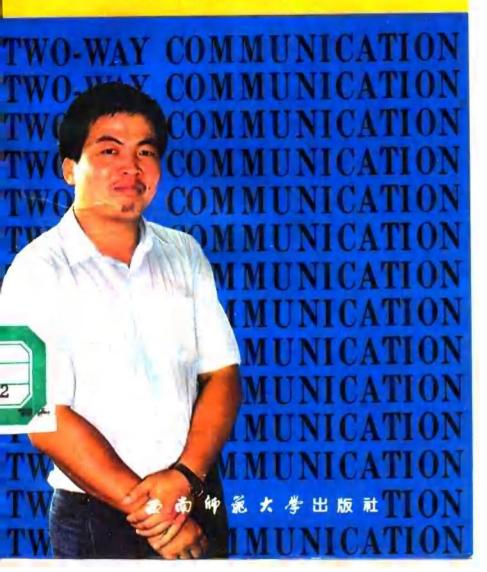
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扶忠漢 著

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目 录

- 1 TALKING WITH ONE'S PROFESSOR
- 2 ON THE HIGH SCHOOL REUNION
- 3 YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE!
- 4 IN THE HOSPITAL
- 5 ASKING FOR A SALARY INCREASE
- 6 LEARNING TAI JI QUAN
- 7 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JOYCE!
- 8 GOING TO A MODERN ART EXHIBITION
- 9 CDMING TO ONE'S DOCTOR FOR CHECK-UP
- 10 TRAFFIC JAMS
- 11 TEACHING IN TAIWAN
- 12 SCUBA DIVING IN CALIFORNIA
- 13 CAILFORNIA—A COUNTRY OF VARIETY
- 14 FAMILY HISTORY AND NATION'S HISTORY
- 15 STUDY ENGLISH GRAMMAR
- 16 HOW 10 APRLY FOR SCHOOL IN US
- 17 ONCE INSIDE THE UNIVERSITY
- 18 CRIMES IN AMERICA
- 19 TALKING ABOUT EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION
- 20 TALKING WITH A POP STAR
- 21 TALKING ABOUT BIRTH CONTROL IN TAIWAN
- 22 BRIBERY IN THE IMMIGRATION OFFICE

翻 译:

- 1 与教授交谈
- 2 在中学校友的聚会上
- 3 你走对了地方!
- 4 在医院里
- 5 要求加薪
- 6 学太极拳
- 7 生日快乐,乔依斯!
- 8 参观现代艺术展览
- 9 找医生体检
- 10 交通阻塞
- 11 在台湾任教
- 12 在加州水肺潜水
- 13 加利福尼亚一色彩纷呈的地方
- 14 家史与民族史
- 15 学习英语语法
- 16 在美国如何申请入学
- 17 进入大学之后
- 18 美国的犯罪事件
- 19 谈论美国的就业与教育问题
- 20 与流行歌星交谈
- 21 谈论台湾的控制生育问题
- 22 移民局里的贿赂

1 TALKING WITH ONE'S PROFESSOR

To fall back on

John: Proffessor, may I speak with you?

Professor: Sure, John. What's the problem?

John: I'm having trouble with the last mathematics exer-

cise. I was wondering if you had time to help me.

Professor: I'd be happy to. Which ones are giving you trou-

ble?

John: These here. You know I'm not really sure why we

have to learn this stuff. How is mathematics going

to help me if I'm playing baseball for a living?

Professor: For one thing you don't know if you can play base-

ball for a living. There's heavy competition. You

would need an education to fall back on if you

don't make the pros.

John: I don't care about the competition. I want to play

in the pros. I'm going to make it. You'll see.

I've already got a scholarship at State College.

Professor:

That's great, John, but you must know that to stay in college you need to pass your classes. Some of the classes will be math classes. You ought to reconsider your feelings about math. It's not as boring as you think. It also gives great skill in problem solving and seeing problems clearly. This is of great help to us in our daily lives.

John:

I don't know. It doesn't seem like it would help my baseball. If I didn't have math class, I could practice an extra hour everyday, but I'll think about what you said.

2 ON THE HIGH SCHOOL REUNION

Simon:

Rachel, is that you?

Rachel:

Simon? I haven't seen you for ten years. Nobody's seen you. How are you? Where have you been all these years?

Simon:

I'm fine. I've been travelling since I finished at the university.

Rachel:

Wow, that's great. How did you find out about our high school reunion?

Simon:

I was keeping in touch with a couple of buys from our school days. They told me about it. What have you been up to?

Rachel:

I'm working at a bank right now. I'm a teller there. I went to college for a couple of years after high school, got a job, and I've been working there ever since. And you? Are you working?

Simon:

No, I just returned from Africa last week. I've been teaching there for five years. I'm going to try to get a teaching position in Asia, so I'm kind of hanging out until the right job comes along.

Rachel: Hey! Look over there. That's Jim Davis and Peggy Carlton. They were high school sweethearts. Now they are married. It's amazing to think about how you and the things around you have changed since then.

Simon: Sure does. Ten years ago I would have laughed if you told me I would live in Africa for five years.

Rachel: And I would have laughed if you told me I wouldn't.

I used to think I was so adventurous, but here I am
now doing the same old nine-to-five routine.

Simon: We can't dwell on the past, can we? I see an old friend coming in now. Bye-bye.

3 YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE

Salesman: Good afternoon, ma'am. Is there something I can

help you with?

Julie: Yes, I'm interested in a new car. Could you show

me some?

Salesman: Why, I'd be happy to. You've come to the right

place. We have easy financing, comprehensive

warranty and excellent service facilities.

Julie: I need something economical and roomy. It will be

the family car.

Salesman: I've got just the thing. Take a look at this late

model Ford. It's got four-wheel drive. It's great

fun in the mountains. On the road or off the road

nothing can stop it. There's also air-conditioning

and top-of-the-line stereo. The price is only fifteen

thousand.

Julie: That's a lot of money. I don't need a car like this,

anyway. I only want to take my kids to school and

carry the groceries back from the supermarket. Be-

sides, it's too expensive.

Salesman: With our easy financing you can take this car home

for only one thousand dollars. Monthly payments

of only three hundred dollars a month.

Julie:

But I don't want a four-wheel drive truck. I want a small, inexpensive car. Why don't you show me another?

Salesman:

I'm only trying to help, ma'am. How about this brand-new Honda? This one doesn't have air-conditioning or stereo, but it does get good gas mileage. This one costs six thousand.

Julie:

That's more like it. I'll bring my husband by to look at it tonight. Thanks for helping me.

4 IN THE HOSPITAL

Nurse: How are we feeling today, Michael?

Michael: I don't know how you are feeling, but I feel terrible.

Nurse: That's too bad. What's the problem?

Michael: This bed is too soft, my legs hurt, and I can't see the

T. V. over my feet.

Nurse: Of course your legs hurt, they're broken. Are we

taking our medicine?

Michael: I'm taking it, but it doesn't do any good. You give

me something that is supposed to make sleep. and I'm

up all night. I took some painkillers, and now my

legs feel worse than ever. I'm totally out of it. I

want to watch T. V.

Nurse: I'll lower our legs a little bit, so we can watch T. V.

Michael: They're my legs, not your legs, and I don't want to

watch T. V. with you. Be careful moving my legs.

Please don't drop them...AHHHH.

Nurse I'm sorry, Michael. They slipped out of my hands.

Clumsy me. I'll try to be more careful.

Michael: Nurse, when can I go home? I think my living room

would be safer than this hospital room.

Nurse: Very funny. I've got a pot of hot tea for you. I'll just

put it on a tray on your bed. the doctor will be in to

see you soon.

Michael: OK. OK. Please leave before you spill this tea onto

my legs.

5 ASKING FOR A SALARY INCREASE

Mrs. Wilson: Hello Paul. You wanted to see me?

Paul: Uhhh... yes, I did, but I guess it's not impor-

tant. I'll just go back to work.

Mrs. Wilson: Paul, very often in life we make decisions that,

at the time, don't seem very important. But

sometimes those very decisions can totally

change your life. Take our company, for exam-

ple, my decision to market automatic coat hang-

ers didn't seem very important ten years ago,

but look where it got me. Now I'm president of a

large company. So you see, Paul, maybe your

question is important.

Paul: Well, I've been thinking. I've worked for you

three years already. I think I've been a good

employee. I come to work on time overy day. I

finish my work before the deadlines. I feel my

services aren't really appreciated here.

Mrs. Wilson: But we do appreciate you. What makes you

think like that?

Paul: I haven't had a raise since I started working

here. I think I deserve a salary increase.

Mrs. Wilson: That's why you came to see me? You were right

the first time. It's not very important. Now go

back to work, Paul.

Paul: Yes, Mrs. Wilson.

6 LEARNING TAI JI QUAN

Grace: Jace, where did you go this morning?

Jack: I went to practice Tai Ji Quan.

Grace: What's that?

Jack: It's kungfu.

Grace: You mean like in those terrible movies from Hong Kong?

Jack: No, this is completely different. Tai Ji is a very special form of exercise. It takes long years of diligent practice and a good teacher to master it. You also need plenty of patience.

Grace: What do you do with it? Do you fight people?

Jack: After many years. Most people think of Tai Ji as being only an exercise for health. However, what most people don't realize is that it is one of the most effective fighting arts. To reach that point you must practice many years.

Grace: It sounds quite difficult. I suppose you must be young and strong to practice Tai Ji.

Jack: You should go to the park in the morning. You will see people of all ages practicing. Old men, old women, big and strong, small and weak. Anyone can do it.

Grace: Maybe I will go with you one morning, but I don't know if I could be so exdited about exercise. I have real trouble getting up before nine in the morning.

Jack: That is a problem. If you feel motivated, give me a call, and we'll go.

Grace: O.K. • Will do.