

- 全国高等院校商务英语精品教材
- 全国商务英语研究会推荐教材

# 新编商务英语 (第二版)

## 口语教程 2

Business English (Second Edition)  
Interactive Speaking

总主编 虞苏美 张春柏  
主 编 杨乾龙



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XINBIAN SHANGWU YINGYU KOUYU JIAOCHENG

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# 前 言

近年来,越来越多的外语教育专家和教师认识到外语学习的目标应该有两个:即把某一种外语作为“知识”来学习,或把这一种外语作为“交际工具”来学习。前者主要以“语法”为重点研究对象和以“精确”为评估标准,引导学生将绝大部分精力和时间用于句子结构的分析和比较。因此,以“知识”为学习目标的外语专业学生有能力把目标语的各种句子结构和语言特色评析得头头是道,但不一定有能力将他的评析用目标语完整清晰地表达出来。社会上流传的所谓“哑巴英语”的说法也是这种学习目标的定位结果。对我国的绝大部分外语专业的学生来说,外语学习的目标无疑应是“交际工具”。对于这部分学生,教师只有把外语学习的重点落实在提高学生的目标语运用能力上,才有可能将学生真正置于一种近似的“自然语言学习环境”中,通过“学会表达”——“正确表达”——“清晰正确表达”——“完整清晰正确表达”这样一种循序渐进的自然过程,达到全面提高学生交际能力的教学目标。

《新编商务英语(第二版)口语教程》,以心理学、教育学和外语学习理论为编写指导思想,在语言材料选用和课文结构设计上贯穿了“学用结合,重在运用”的原则。课文内容着重反映当代日常和现实商务活动的真实情景,练习活动丰富,实用性强。本教材虽然是专门为学习商务英语的高等院校的学生而设计和编写的,但也可用作非商务英语专业学生的教材和英语爱好者的自学课本。

本教材全部课文围绕一个美国商人 Henry White 一家在中国和英美等国的日常生活和商务活动展开,涉及经济、贸易、工农业、教育、旅游、投资、金融、劳务、地产等领域中的考察、谈判、签约、网上交易、电子商务等。每个单元都有一个中心话题和与话题相关的课堂练习活动,旨在促使学生将口语学习不仅仅停留在传统的机械背诵和模仿上,而是通过大量的任务型课堂活动来强化英语语言的运用能力,使英语真正成为表达学生个人情感和思想的“交际工具”。

为了更好地与高中英语教学大纲衔接,本教材第一册主要为各种日常会话,对话的地点主要安排在国内,背景则是中国学生所熟悉的各种口语交际活动的场所。内容主要涉及介绍相识、电话交流、谈论天气、邀请聚会、用餐、购物、看病、吉庆假日、娱乐、邮寄包裹和体育运动等日常生活领域中的用语。从第二册起,大部分对话的地点和背景将移向国外,商务活动内容逐渐增多。这种结构上的安排为学生对背景和专业知识的了解,提供了一个从“熟悉”到“不熟悉”的渐进过程,从而使英语学习能以难点分散、反复巩固、循序渐进的螺旋上升方式进行。

《新编商务英语(第二版)口语教程》共分四册,总教学课时为 360 学时,每册为 90 学时。第一、第二册各为 16 单元,第三、第四册各为 15 单元。

本教材第二册每一单元分为五大部分:热身练习(Warm-up)、样板对话(Dialogues)、交际功能范句(Functional Expressions)、交际任务(Communicative Task)和课后练习(Task After



Class)。其中热身练习,样板对话和交际功能范句的内容都有配套的录音。

第一部分是热身练习,主要供学生在正式上课前或个人或小组练习之用,目的是使学生迅速地过渡到英语语言环境。

第二部分是样板对话,供教师和学生课堂上使用。对话语言生动活泼,口语特点鲜明,人物活动的情节引人入胜。对话示范性地展示了各种日常和商务活动场合中的英语口语表达的结构和方式,使学生能在较短的时间内掌握准确且得体的日常和商务口语。

第三部分是交际功能范句,这部分旨在向学生提供某一语言交际功能中可以使用的各种表达方式。需要指出的是:虽然在某一功能下有各种各样的句子可供说话者选用,但这并不意味着说话者为了完成某一功能而随意“挑”一个句子说说就行。在很多情况下,会话的场合、会话双方的社会地位和身份以及讲话的目的决定了只有某一个句子才是这种特定会话环境中最恰当的表达语;而在某些情况下,用不同的语气和语调说出同一个句子,则表达了说话者完全不同的意思。这种句意与语气语调之间的微妙关系,需要在教师的指导下,经过较长时间的学习才能掌握。

第四部分为交际任务,这些任务均与对话主题或交际功能相关。这是本教材区别于许多其他英语口语教材的重要特点之一。这种交际任务为学生提供了一个检验自己学习成果和在现实生活中实践英语语言运用能力的机会。样板对话和交际功能范句的学习是进行交际活动的基础,交际任务又是学生对样板对话和交际功能范句消化吸收和对英语语言规则内化的一个必不可少的语言习得步骤。在进行交际活动时,教师应特别注意学生中可能出现的重语言形式、轻言语意义和在课堂上机械地模仿样板对话和交际功能范句的“伪交际”现象。在以语法翻译法和听说法为主要教学方法的中学英语课堂上,这种现象是屡见不鲜的。为了减少和避免“伪交际”现象,教师应尽量为课堂交际任务的活动提供真实的实践背景和必要的语言词汇,在教学中提高学生语言技能运用的时间比例,使学生逐步学会和掌握表达自己想要表达的真实思想和观点。必要时,教师可以因地制宜地对本部分交际任务的活动内容作适当的修正。

第五部分为课后练习,提供了16个经典英语电影片段的剧本台词。这些电影片段中的台词包含了最新的常用口语,其中不乏中国学生不易听清楚或不易理解的用语。

总之,我们希望学生通过本教材的学习,不仅能听懂日常和商务英语会话,能以准确的语调进行英语会话,自由地表达自己的思想和观点;而且能逐步养成用符合特定场合的得体语言回答或者提出各种问题的习惯,为今后的工作做好充分准备。

在编写本教材过程中,我们得到了国内外同行的启示和高等教育出版社编辑的帮助。英籍专家 Frank Tonge 协助审阅了本教材的全部语言文字并参与了部分课文的编写工作。在此,对所有关心、支持和帮助本书编写和出版的人员,表示衷心的感谢。

由于编者水平和经验有限,本书可能有疏漏和不当之处,我们诚恳希望外语教育专家和使用本书的广大师生不吝指教。

为此,我们特开设与外语教育专家和使用本教材的广大师生交流的网上平台, <http://v2.my99.us/sms/>。

编 者

2012年3月于华东师范大学

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# Unit One

## On the Campus



### Warm-up

#### Say out Loud and Fast

1. Chance favors only the prepared mind.
2. Does effort eventually pay off?
3. Fear is only as deep as the mind allows.
4. Fortune befriends the bold.
5. He who angers you conquers you.
6. Little by little does the trick.
7. Negotiation is a tight-rope walk.
8. One chance is all you need.
9. The best is yet to be.
10. Uncertainty and expectation are the joys of life.



### Dialogues

#### *Dialogue A Long Time No See*

It's July in San Francisco. Sophia and Henry are with their son, Richard, and Richard's girlfriend Ying Xu. They have all taken a vacation from the hectic life of Shanghai, to go to Isabel's (or Izzy as she is known by her family) graduation ceremony at Berkeley University.



*Sophia and Henry are at a graduation party outside on the university lawn surrounded by professors and students in their graduation gowns, and other parents. They are feeling a little awkward at such a formal occasion, as all parents and students do.*

- Sophia:** Look, isn't this so exciting, Henry? Our daughter is finally graduating from college. It's the end of student life for our youngest. No more long hours of studying for exams. No more reading long sophisticated essays that you only half understand and have no interest at all. No more spending all night writing essays and sleeping in lectures the next day. Remember the days when we were at Berkeley, Henry? The 1970's were an exciting time; Richard Nixon and the Watergate scandal; the gas crisis; the open air rock concerts; the Rolling Stones; the flares. It was a terrible time for fashion; I can't believe it's coming back ... Henry! Are you listening to me?
- Henry:** Mm? Oh, sorry darling, what were you saying?
- Sophia:** (*a little annoyed*) Nothing. What are you looking at?
- Henry:** I think I see an old friend of ours. Do you remember Bill Freidmann from Berkeley?
- Sophia:** Oh, really? Where? Yes, I see him. (*She starts waving to a man on the other side of the crowd.*) Bill! How've you been?
- Bill:** Sophia! Wow, long time no see! Where have you been hiding yourself? (*They hug.*) Henry, you old son of a gun! (*Henry and Bill give each other a firm handshake and hug slapping each other on the back.*)
- Henry:** How long has it been? Twenty, or twenty-five years?
- Bill:** Too long. You've put on a few pounds there, bud. (*taps his round stomach*)
- Henry:** Well, you know, Chinese food is too good to resist.
- Bill:** Yeh, I heard you moved out to China.
- Sophia:** Yep, Henry works for a computer company there.
- Bill:** What about you, Sophia? Still as stunning as ever!
- Sophia:** Oh, Bill, you flattered me! I work for a travel agency in Shanghai.
- Bill:** I hear it's quite tough out in China.
- Henry:** Oh no, especially Shanghai. Why do you think we've lived there for seven years?
- Sophia:** (*pointing to Henry's rotund belly*) And how do you think he got this? It's like sleeping next to a beached whale! (*they all laugh*)
- Henry:** (*mockingly insulted*) Oh, thank you Sophia!
- Bill:** So, do you have a child graduating today?
- Henry:** Yes, our daughter, Isabel White. She's graduating with a BA in International



Relations.

**Sophia:** (*big proud grin*) First class honors and top of her class.

**Bill:** Well, congratulations. Actually I am not surprised, considering who her parents are.

**Sophia:** Thank you, Bill. You're so kind.

### *Dialogue B I Couldn't Help Overhearing*

*Richard and Ying Xu are standing on the other side of the crowd looking at the crowd.*

**Ying Xu:** Westerners do like to dress up, don't they?

**Richard:** Well, it is a special occasion.

**Ying Xu:** But they are all dressed up like movie stars at the Oscars.

**Richard:** Or you could say that movie stars at the Oscars are dressed up like students at a graduation garden party. This sort of tradition goes back centuries.

**Ying Xu:** (*Points to a woman with a short cocktail dress.*) Look at that dress, terrible!

**Richard:** Don't say that too loudly. You don't want people to hear you criticize their dress sense. (*with a sense of pride*) We should behave ourselves. Izzy has been working very hard for this, even harder than a Chinese student. We haven't seen much of her in the past four years. Even when we moved to Shanghai seven years ago, she insisted to stay in San Francisco with our aunt to complete her high school. She would join us every vacation. But when she went back to Berkeley, she would use her all the left vacation time to earn money for her tuition. (*Richard looks around and overhears a conversation where Isabel's name is mentioned.*)

**Richard:** Er, excuse me, sorry to interrupt, but I couldn't help overhearing. Did you say you knew Isabel White?

**John:** Yes, I'm her classmate, why?

**Richard:** I'm her brother, Richard White.

**John:** Oh, well, congratulations, you must be very pleased! (*shakes Richard's hand*)

**Richard:** Thanks. This is my girlfriend Ying Xu from China.  
(*Ying offers him her hand first.*)

**John:** (*takes her hand*) Nice to meet you. Er, what's your name again?

**Ying Xu:** (*Smiling politely, since she can tell he won't be able to pronounce her name correctly.*) Ying Xu.

**John:** (*He gives up trying to understand.*) Right, that's a nice name.

**Ying Xu:** Your name is ...?



- John: MacKay, John Mackay. Just call me John.
- Ying Xu: Pleased to meet you, John.
- John: Me too. Where do you come from?
- Ying Xu: Shanghai, China. And you?
- John: San Diego, California. Do you live in Shanghai as well, Richard?
- Richard: Yes, I moved there with my parents seven years ago. I am originally from San Francisco.
- John: Oh, wow. So are you two thinking of getting married as well?
- Richard: Sorry? Who else is getting married?
- John: Well, Isabel, of course ... didn't you ... know that? (*realizing his mistake, he gives an embarrassed laugh*)
- Richard: To whom? Please don't feel embarrassed. She should have said something herself.
- John: Well, I mean it only happened last week, and she probably wanted to surprise you.
- Richard: I didn't even know she had a boyfriend!
- John: Oh, really?! She's been going out with Steven for two years now.
- Ying Xu: How long?!
- Richard: Where is she?!
- John: They were here moment ago.

### *Dialogue C Campus Recruiting*

*Opposite to the graduation party, there are several booths, which are crowded by the graduates and their parents. Richard, Ying Xu and John couldn't help but go and have a look.*

- Ying Xu: Richard, what's that?
- Richard: Looks like campus recruiting. Let's go and have a look.
- Ying Xu: John, have you found a job yet?
- John: Not yet, and I'm getting discouraged. I have been to several job fairs, but no one was really interested in hiring a Journalism major.
- Richard: I know how you feel. When I was doing my job hunting, I was told by many of the companies there that they were for people with other skills.
- John: I have mailed out twenty *résumés* already. Not a least sound is heard!
- Richard: I was depressed at first, feeling my four years' hard working was a waste of time. After I calmed down, I began to think about whether it was my problem. Finally, I had a job lined up.

**John:** How did you do that?

**Richard:** Well, I cut short my *résumé*. I just highlighted that I was familiar with 3D animation designing and I won several prizes in the competition. When they interviewed me, I presented my eloquence and communication skills. The boss was very impressed with my combination of skills, and he hired me.

**John:** The job market is very tight this year, you know, the financial crisis. I'm afraid there will be a lot of graduates who will have to settle for something less than they hoped for or go to a less desirable part of the country.  
(*They come to an illumination company booth.*)

**Recruiter:** Congratulations, guys!

**Richard:** Thank you. It's really a big day for my sister.

**Recruiter:** Absolutely! A big day of finishing school, and a big day of starting a career! Any interest in this "bright" industry?

**Richard:** It is a bright industry in the true sense! There is a huge demand for the energy saving lamps.

**Recruiter:** Exactly! This is an industry which calls for innovation, initiative spirit and great concern for the environment. Our company is devoted to developing the indoor lightning, outdoor lightning and automatic lightning. This is the place where the young people can put their talents into good use. By the way, what's your major?

**John:** Journalism. I'm afraid you don't have a proper post for a journalism major.

**Recruiter:** Quite on the contrary! There is a publicity department in our company, which is responsible for publicizing the latest developments and the new products. Publicizing is an indispensable link for an enterprise. Journalism professionals are desperately needed in our company.

**John:** That's awesome! Oh, what bad luck! I didn't bring the *résumé* with me.

**Recruiter:** It doesn't matter. You can apply online for the job. First, you upload your *résumé*, and then complete your online registration. Next, complete some online questionnaires. The final step is to submit your online application.

**John:** Do you need a cover letter?

**Recruiter:** No. A cover letter is not required. If you are identified as a good match for a current job opening, a member of the recruiting team will contact you to conduct a first round interview. The focus of the interview is to determine your qualifications, interest and availability.

**John:** I see.

**Recruiter:** If you complete the first round interview successfully, you will be invited to a site interview at the location where you intend to begin your career, for there're several branches throughout the country. The most qualified



candidates receive an offer from us. This typically occurs shortly after the site interview. Candidates will receive a written offer that details the position, salary, start date and sometimes, relocation assistance. Am I understood?

John: Very clear! Thank you very much. You're so helpful.

Recruiter: Here's the leaflet. Hope you can join us.

## Notes

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. hectic life                             | 紧张忙碌的生活               |
| 2. or Izzy as she is known by her family   | 或她家人称她伊莎              |
| 3. Berkeley University                     | 伯克利大学(位于美国加利福尼亚州西部)   |
| 4. a little awkward                        | 有点不自在                 |
| 5. in graduation gown                      | 身着毕业长袍                |
| 6. the Watergate scandal                   | 水门丑闻                  |
| 7. the gas crisis                          | 石油危机                  |
| 8. the open air rock concerts              | 露天摇滚音乐会               |
| 9. the Rolling Stones                      | (英)滚石乐队               |
| 10. the flares                             | 喇叭裤                   |
| 11. make one's way                         | 一路前进,向前               |
| 12. You old son of a gun!                  | (寒暄语)你这个家伙!           |
| 13. You've put on a few pounds there, bud. | 老兄,你发福了。              |
| 14. Still as stunning as ever!             | 还像从前一样光彩照人。           |
| 15. ... you flattered me!                  | ……过奖了。                |
| 16. ... it's quite tough out in China.     | ……在中国那边很不容易啊。         |
| 17. Why do you think we've ...             | 你怎么不想想我们为什么……         |
| 18. a beached whale                        | 一头搁浅的(大腹便便)鲸鱼         |
| 19. mockingly insulted                     | 就像受了委屈似的              |
| 20. first class honors                     | 一等奖                   |
| 21. top of her class                       | 班上的高才生                |
| 22. dress up                               | 穿得一本正经的               |
| 23. special occasion                       | 隆重的场合                 |
| 24. their dress sense                      | 他们对着装的品味              |
| 25. cocktail dress                         | (正式场合穿的)短裙            |
| 26. tuition                                | 学费                    |
| 27. wow                                    | (表示惊叹、快乐、痛苦、羡慕等)哎哟!哇! |
| 28. campus recruiting                      | 校园招聘                  |
| 29. job hunting                            | 找工作                   |
| 30. I had a job lined up.                  | 落实了一份工作。              |

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 31. highlight                               | 重点突出        |
| 32. The job market is very tight this year. | 今年的就业形势很紧张。 |
| 33. desirable                               | 令人称心如意的     |
| 34. illumination company                    | 照明企业        |
| 35. publicity department                    | 企宣部         |
| 36. an indispensable link                   | 不可或缺的环节     |
| 37. a cover letter                          | 求职信         |
| 38. relocation assistance                   | 安置费         |



## Functional Expressions

### Starting a Conversation

1. Cold weather, isn't it?
2. Dreadful weather, don't you think?
3. Daniel Paul, what's your reaction to this?
4. Excuse me, aren't you Peter Green?
5. Excuse me, but could you tell me the time?
6. Excuse me, didn't we meet in Malaysia?
7. Excuse me, haven't we met somewhere before?
8. Excuse me, is anyone sitting here?
9. Freezing, isn't it?
10. Hi! Great show, eh?
11. I hope you don't mind my asking, but haven't we met somewhere before?
12. Sorry to interrupt you, is that an Indian ruby?
13. Sorry to trouble you, but do you happen to know when the museum opens?
14. Sorry, I couldn't help overhearing, did you mention something about the accident?
15. Uh, could you help me? I'm looking for a parking lot.

### Changing the Subject

1. As I mentioned before, human life is threatened by modern industry.
2. Besides the endangered wild life, we are greatly concerned about the ozone layer.
3. By the way, can I keep the book for three weeks?
4. Could we move on now to the problem of transportation?
5. Hey, I nearly forgot! John asked you to give him a ring.
6. I once read a book called *The Call of Human Nature*, but that's beside the point.





7. I think we ought to move on to the next item.
8. Incidentally, your proposal has been put to the discussion at the meeting.
9. Just to change the subject for a moment, have you heard about the nickname Ice City for the capital of Heilongjiang?
10. Let's change the subject.
11. Oh, before I forget, have you sent the letter to Mr. Piggins?
12. Shall we now switch to the next topic? A topic about your future.
13. The next item on the agenda is women's liberation.
14. Well, while I remember, Professor Jackson's going to give us a lecture this afternoon.



## Communicative Task

### Communication Without Words

Types of Activity: pairs, groups, inter-groups.

Functions Practiced: start a conversation, change the subject.

### Pre-task

1. Being a learner of English as a foreign language, you should learn at least two communication systems in the target language: verbal language and nonverbal communication systems, for in oral communication they co-occur. Believe it or not, learning nonverbal communication systems may not be so easy as it appears to be. Read the following story to your partner and you'll know that knowing the nonverbal communication system is just the first step toward using it naturally in the target language communication.

Nixon, then President of the U. S. A. made a serious mistake when he went to visit a South American country. He used an "OK" gesture to signify "Everything is OK", which was taken as very obscene by the South Americans. And the following day a big photo of this American President gesticulating "obscenely" appeared in newspapers in that country.

2. Now you have one thousand and one reasons to learn the nonverbal communication system well together with the verbal communication system in English speaking community. Work with your group members to figure out the gestures in Chinese for the items in the following table.

3. Compare the gestures your group illustrated with the descriptions made by the other groups to check if all of you get the same interpretations. If not, go on to discuss in class.

4. Have a further discussion on nonverbal communication system;

- a) What forms and meanings of gestures are identical both in Chinese and English?
- b) What forms of gestures are same but conflict in meanings in Chinese and English?
- c) What gestures are popular in English but absent in Chinese?



Meaning	Gesture in English	Gesture in Chinese
Come here.	Extend one's closed hand, palm up, with only forefingers moving back and forth.	
Shame on you.	Extend both hands, palms down, with forefingers stretching out and one forefinger making several brushing movements over the back of the other forefinger.	
I am full (after a meal).	With an open hand, palm down, raising to one's throat (often with the remark "I am full up to here.").	
Hitchhiking.	Move several times a closed hand with an outstretched thumb pointing to the direction in which one intends to travel.	
Kill oneself.	Raise one's right hand close to his head, with the forefinger and the thumb stretching out and the forefinger pointing to his temple.	
Show impatience.	Stamp one's foot.	



## Task After Class

### Enjoy and Rehearse the Movie Clip in Your Group

*Independence Day* (1996)

Director: Roland Emmerich

Writers: Dean Devlin, Roland Emmerich

Stars: Will Smith, Bill Pullman and Jeff Goldblum

### Independence Day

#### Whitmore's bedroom — Pre-dawn

(Laying in bed, Thomas J. Whitmore reads a stack of papers. The phone rings.)

Woman's voice: (Filtering through phone.) Hi. It's me.

(The warm look on Whitmore's face tells us everything about how he feels about the woman on the other end).

Whitmore: Hi honey. What time is it there?

#### Hotel room — Night

(Dressed in a nightgown, Mrs. Margaret Whitmore unpacks her briefing papers and lays them out on a small desk as she talks. Through the window we see Los Angeles at night.)

Margaret: Two in the morning. I know I didn't wake you?

Whitmore: (Filtered) As a matter of fact you did.

Margaret: (Smiles) Liar.



**Whitmore bedroom — Same**

(*Whitmore sits up.*)

Whitmore: I have a confession to make. There's a beautiful young blonde sleeping next to me.

(*Sleeping next to him, his six-year-old daughter, PATRICIA.*)

Margaret: (*Filtered*) You didn't let her stay up watching TV all night?

Whitmore: Of course not.

(*The little girl stirs awake, looks up.*)

Patricia: Mommy?

Whitmore: You're flying back right after the luncheon? OK, here she is.

(*Whitmore hands her the phone and gets out of bed. Habitably he turns on the television.*)

**TV-news program**

(*Several "Pundits" sit around a MaLaughlin-type news discussion program. The picture quality is snowy, static ridden.*)

Pundit 1: ... the inexperience in public office was inevitably going to catch up with him. He's scarified his ideals for "politics as usual".

(*Whitmore ties on his robe as he adjusts the picture quality.*)

Pundit 2: ... I said this during the campaign. Leadership as a pilot in the Gulf War has no relationship to political leadership. It's a different animal ...

(*Suddenly the channel changes. A cartoon comes on. Whitmore turns to his daughter who holds the remote.*)

Patricia: (*into phone*) Daddy let me watch Letterman.

Whitmore: Traitor.

(*Whitmore exits the room.*)

**Hallway — Continuous**

(*As Whitmore steps out of his bedroom, a security guard snaps to attention. Someone, hidden behind a newspaper, sits on a bench.*)

Security guard: Good morning, Mr. President.

Whitmore: Good morning, George.

(*The paper is dropped revealing CONSTANCE HALBROOK, mid-thirties, aggressive, sharp, the President's communications director. Quickly she gathers her things and follows Whitmore.*)

**Breakfast table — Continuous**

(*Two servants are preparing breakfast as Whitmore and Constance enter. Whitmore sits down, and grabs a coffee.*)

Whitmore: You're up early this morning, Connie.

(*She tosses him one of the many newspapers in her hands.*)



Constance: They're not attacking your policies; they're attacking your age. (*another paper; reading*) "... addressing Congress, Whitmore seems less like the President and more like the orphan child Oliver asking, 'please sir, I'd like some more.'"

Whitmore: Clever.

Constance: Age was never an issue when you stuck to your gun. You were thought of as young and idealistic. But the message has gotten lost. There's too much compromise, too much politics.

Whitmore: (*pointedly*) Isn't it amazing how fast everyone can turn against you. (*Realizing she may be pushing him too far, she hands him another paper.*)

Constance: Well, the Orange County Register has named you one of the ten sexiest men of the year.

Whitmore: You see, substance at last.  
(*An AIDE appears at the doorway.*)

Constance: Excuse me, Mr. President. It's the Secretary of Defense.  
(*Whitmore goes to the phone, picks it up.*)

Whitmore: Yes? Say that again?

#### White House — Basement corridors — Day

(*Under a barrage of questions from her own staff, Constance hurries down the corridor.*)

Aide 1: CNN is running a story that we're covering up some kind of nuclear testing experiments ...

Constance: Tell them to run with it if they want to embarrass themselves.

Aide 2: NASA has been up my butt all morning. They want to know our position.

Constance: Our official position is we don't have an official position.

Aide 3: Connie, what the hell is going on?  
(*Constance escapes into the elevator, turns around.*)

Constance: (*smiles confidently*) Come on, people. Would I keep you guys out of the loop?

Aide 1: In a second!

Aide 2: Absolutely.  
(*Before she can retort, the elevator doors close.*)

#### Oval Office — Wide shot — Same

(*The President, General Grey, the Secretary of Defense and White House Chief of Staff Albert Nimziki are gathered around the couch.*)

Sec. of Defense: At the moment, our satellites are somewhat unreliable. Isn't it possible that thing may just pass us by?