

多彩英语口语

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封面设计:大涛视觉传播设计事务所

出版发行:	西南财经大学出版社(四川省成都市光华村街 55 号)
网 址:	http://www.xcpress.com/
电子邮件:	xcpress@mail.sc.cninfo.net
邮政编码:	610074
电 话:	028-87353785 87352368
印 刷:	西南财经大学印刷厂
开 本:	880mm×1230mm■1/32
印 张:	6.25
字 数:	155 千字
版 次:	2003 年 10 月第 1 版
印 次:	2003 年 10 月第 1 次印刷
书 号:	ISBN 7-81088-162-0/H·009
定 价:	15.00 元

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多 彩 英 语 口 语

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前言

在高等学校英语教学以及与学生或学习英语的朋友交流的过程中，最常遇到的问题是怎样练口语，而在口语课上，教师与学生也同样面临困境：学生不愿开口讲，也不知道讲什么，尽管这些学生具有一定或相当的书面英语水平。学生常常感到掌握英语口语的困难。数量有限的口语以及对短文、对话的记忆背诵难以提高学生在日常生活中用英语进行口头交际的能力。学生对口语有惧怕感，突破不了口语关。针对这种状况，我们编写了《多彩英语口语》这本书。

该书为具备一定英语水平或自学者练习口语提供了大量可激励其开口的主题，这些主题大部分取自原版报刊、流行杂志，涉及范围广泛，包含大量英语国家背景知识，且大都与我们的日常生活密切相关。通过激发练习者的兴趣使其乐于开口说英语，从而达到提高口语表达能力的效果。

本书共包括 38 个单元，每个单元以一篇短小精悍的文章为开端，继而对文章中重要及具有特殊用法的语句注释，然后针对这些语句以及据文章内容提出的问题进行讨论。这些问题大都与读者生活相关，并附有相关的汉译英、英译汉等口译练习，形式生动活泼、趣味盎然。同时在每篇短文的前面还配有一些精彩英语成语和名言警句，以增强练习者的兴趣和对英语的感知能力。此书不仅可作为大中专院校专业口语课教材，对有一定英语基础

的自学者来说，也不失为练习口语的良师益友。

良好的学习效果来自积极主动的学习，我们衷心地希望这本书对读者提高英语口语表达能力能起到积极的作用。

教学法的研究永无止境，且由于时间仓促，书中疏漏与不足之处在所难免，敬请批评指正。

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2003 年 8 月



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Unit 1 Gateway to the USA

IDIOM LEARNING

First things first. (saying) used to tell somebody to deal with things in order of importance. 最重要的事优先; 要事第一.

first or later — at indefinite time; sooner or later
时间不确定但是总会; 迟早不免.

First come, first served. 先到先买 (先到先吃; 先到先看等); 先到先招待.

Perhaps no single monument in the USA is as famous as the Statue of Liberty. Standing on a small island in New York Harbor, the crowned Lady, holding aloft in her right hand the torch of freedom and in her left hand a tablet which is inscribed on July 4th, 1776, is a symbol of American democracy. She is colossal. She is 151 ft. high and the pedestal on which she stands is almost as much. An elevator takes visitors to the top of the pedestal, around which a balcony runs. A spiral staircase goes up to the crown, and another to the torch. The Statue of Liberty was a gift to the USA from France in 1886, as a mark of friendship and also in memory of the aid France gave the Americans during the

American Revolution.

For millions of immigrants, the Statue was their first sight of the Promised Land, and for a few it was almost the last, as they sailed back home again to a desolate future. About a mile from Liberty Island, there is another small island, called Ellis Island. It was here that they had to wait their turn to be examined by doctors and officials. Most of the immigrants could not speak a word of English. But only two out of 100 immigrants were refused admission to New York City.

New York was a bitter disillusionment to some immigrants. Far from being a city paved with gold, it was a city teeming with overcrowded, unhealthy and unsafe ghettos. Because they could not speak English, the newcomers found it difficult to get work at once, and their living quarters were often slums.

However, they found in the USA opportunities of bettering themselves and of escaping from the tyranny which many of them had suffered in their own countries. To that extent, the Statue of Liberty did give them an honest welcome.

Most immigrants from Europe now pass through New York City via Kennedy Airport. But for immigrants from Asia—Koreans, Filipinos, Chinese, the gateway to the USA is San Francisco, not New York City.

NOTES

1. the Statue of Liberty: 自由女神像. 矗立于纽约港的一个小岛上, 高 151 英尺, 女神像的底座高 151 英尺.

2. inscribe: 刻, 印

3. disillusionment: 幻想破灭

4. ghetto, slum: 贫民窟



5. tyranny: 暴政, 苛政, 专制

6. via: 经过, 通过, 转折

DISCUSSIONS

A. Work in groups of 2 or 3, discussing the following vocabulary questions.

1. Try to find as many words as you can which have the same meaning as "colossal". Make a list of them, and compare your list with your neighbours.

2. What is an immigrant? What's an emigrant?

3. For what reasons were immigrants disillusioned with New York?

4. What's the meaning of the word "neighbourhood" in American English?

5. Why did the immigrants regard the USA as a promised land?

B. Discussion Questions

1. Why was the Statue of Liberty among the immigrants' first sights of New York City?

2. What does the Statue of Liberty commemorate?

3. Describe the Statue of Liberty, and describe the highest monument in your city.

4. For many immigrants, is New York City a city paved with gold? Why or why not?

5. Which "gateway to the USA" do most oriental immigrants pass through?

EXERCISES

A. Translate the following sentences into English orally.

1. 在成都, 最高的人物塑像是矗立于展览馆前的毛主席塑

像. (standing)

2. 小李去年移民去了美国. 他英语很好, 所以很容易地找到了一份工作. (immigrate)

3. 这些年轻人必须作婚前检查才能登记结婚. (physical examination)

4. 老李听人说, 旧金山遍地黄金, 所以携带妇幼, 从香港来到旧金山. (paved with)

5. 老李一家最初到美国时, 住在拥挤不堪的贫民窟里, 生活很艰难. (slum)

B. *Translate the following dialog into Chinese orally.*

—Why did the French give us the Statue?

—To commemorate the help they gave us during the American Revolution.

—Is the Statue very old?

—Not really. It was a gift from the French in 1886.

—What's on the tablet she's holding in her hand?

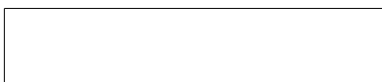
—July 4th, 1776. That's Independence Day.

—Is there an elevator that goes right up to the crown?

—No, only to the top of the pedestal.

—Is it possible to climb right up her right arm and get a view from the very top?

—Yes, a spiral staircase goes right up into the torch.



Unit 2 America—The Melting Pot?

IDIOM LEARNING

first of all — taking everything into account;
completely 总的看来; 总的说来

at first sight — after a quick look, before really
thinking about one's feeling about sth. 乍一看来, 初
看起来

of the first water — of the best quality, the
greatest 质量最好的, 最伟大的

Is the United States a melting pot? In other words, have immigrants to the USA merged with the native Americans and stopped to be Germans, Japanese, Poles, Irish, etc? It has been suggested that a "pot of stew" might be a more suitable word than "melting pot", for in a stew the meat and vegetables keep their own characteristics, but thanks to the spices and the way it is cooked, the stew has a distinctive flavor of its own.

Many American social workers feel that racial and national groups should be encouraged to preserve their customs, traditions and languages. At the same time, it is agreed that all A-

mericans must learn to speak English clearly and fluently, and they must learn to adapt themselves to the American way of life.

However, there are ethnic groups who still stick together, who speak their own languages and have preserved many of their old customs. There are Hispanic communities, e. g. Mexicans, Cubans, Puerto Ricans, most of whom still speak Spanish as their first language. There are the American Indians and various Asian groups, all of whom speak their own languages. Then there are the 20 million blacks, who, though they speak English, for the most part live separately.

Many descendants of European immigrants have also stayed together in groups. Large numbers of hundreds of thousands of Italians live together in neighborhoods which are predominantly Italian. There are large German and Irish neighborhoods in cities like Chicago. The little city of Frankenmuth, Michigan, founded by German missionaries in 1840, still has a population which is 90 % German in origin. Fifty percent of the people still speak German. With the exception of the Anglo-Saxons, the Germans are the largest ethnic group in the USA. Americans of German ancestry have made a considerable contribution to their adopted land and helped to enrich a distinctive American English. It is a little known fact that there were already half a million Germans in America at the time of the American Revolution. The commanders-in-chief in both world wars were of German ancestry: General Pershing in World War I and General Eisenhower in World War II. Some Irish Americans whose ancestors came to the USA in the middle of 19th century still think themselves Irish.

Many blacks are beginning to trace their roots back to the African tribes from which their ancestors were torn (separated) in the days of slavery and some of them are identifying themselves more and more with Africa. Some black leaders disapprove, reminding them that their culture and their language are not African. They are American but many blacks are too bitterly against white culture to feel American.

The oriental Americans have proved to be very successful immigrants, although they add up to less than 1% of the population. The Chinese in their Chinatowns are very self-contained and industrious. Japanese Americans were shamefully treated during World War II but have re-established themselves and have come to gain the respect and admiration of their fellow Americans.

NOTES

1. merge with: 与...合并, 与...融和在一起
2. stew: 慢火煨炖的浓汤
3. thanks to: 多亏, 幸亏
4. preserve: 保留, 保持
5. ...and they must learn to adapt themselves to the American way of life. ...他们必须学会适应美国的生活方式.
6. predominantly: 有影响, 杰出, 主要地
7. But many blacks are too bitterly against the white culture to feel American. 但许多黑人强烈反对白人文化, 从而不感到自己是美国人.

DISCUSSIONS

A. *Work in groups of 2 or 3, discussing the following vocabulary questions.*

1. What is an ethnic group?

2. What's the difference between "a melting pot" and "a pot of stew"?

3. What would you have to do to adapt yourself to a new way of life?

4. What does "predominantly Italian" mean?

5. What is the purpose of a "missionary"?

6. "The USA in my adopted country" suggests you have made a decision. What decision?

B. *Discussion Questions*

1. What distinguishes Hispanics from other groups?

2. Name some of the large ethnic groups which live together in city neighborhoods.

3. Many blacks are identifying themselves more and more with Africa. Why are some of their leaders worried about this?

4. Give an example of the large part German Americans have played in American history.

5. How many minorities are there in China? Name as many as you can, and give as much information about them as you can.

C. *Someone makes a statement on race relations with which you disagree strongly. Use five different phrases or sentences to express strong disagreement, e. g. "I never heard anything so stupid in my whole life."*

D. *Someone makes a statement on immigration with which you agree wholeheartedly. Use five sentences or phrases to express strong agreement, e. g. "I'll go along with that 100%."*

EXERCISES

A. *Translate the following sentences into English orally.*

1. 我国的社会工作者认为, 应当保留各个少数民族 (minority)

ty) 的语言、文化及生活方式。

2. 众所周知，她是个著名的演员，然而，她作为很有成就的书法家的事实却鲜为人知 (well known; little known fact)。

3. 美国黑人的根虽然在非洲，但他们的语言、文化却是美国的。

4. 祖籍是德国的美国人，为美国做出了巨大的贡献，并帮助丰富了美国英语。

5. 第二次世界大战后，在美国的日本移民通过自己的勤奋劳动重新赢得了美国人民的尊重。

B. *Listen to your teacher playing the song "Mama He's Crazy", performed by the Judds, and discuss the meaning with your partner.*

Mama He's Crazy

Mama, I've found someone
Like you said would come along
He's a sight, so unlike
Any man I've known
I was afraid to let him in
'Cause I'm not the trusting kind
But now I'm convinced
That he's heaven sent
And must be out of his mind
And, Mama, you've always said,
"Better look before you leap."
Maybe so, but here I go,
Letting my heart lead me
He thinks I hung the moon and stars
I think he's a living dream

And there're men
The ones like him
Are few and far between
Mama, he is crazy
Crazy over me
And in my life is where, he says
He always wants to be
I've never been so loved
He beats all I've ever known
Mama, he is crazy
He is crazy over me

Notes

1. "Mama He's Crazy" 是由母女乐队 Judds 演唱的，曾荣登 1984 年度美国十大乡村歌曲排行榜第三.
2. let ... in: 让...进入自己的生活
3. Look before you leap. 三思而后行.

Unit 3 American English and British English

IDIOM LEARNING

second only to sb./sth. — having only one person or thing that is better, more important, etc. 仅次于

second nature to sb. — be easy and nature to sb.
很自然的

on second thought(s) — changing one's mind after thinking more about sth. 再想一想，一转念

Written English is more or less the same in both Britain and the USA, and in everyday speech, the two peoples have little difficulties in understanding one another. In fact, Americans have exported a large number of their words and phrases to Britain through literature, the movies, TV, American soldiers during both world wars, and tourists.

Some of the words that Americans now use come from the languages of their immigrants, particularly from the Germans, who make up a large proportion of the country's reputation.

Of course, there are some American words that are peculiar