

高级英语论题训练教程

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内 容 简 介

本书为大学非英语专业的专业外语教材,内容涉及目前流行的学科领域的基本内容、科技论题、专业背景材料、约定俗成词语和口语练习等,目的在于加强大学生的口语组织与交流能力,同时熟悉日常生活口语所涉及的各种专题、拓宽重要的专业英语知识面,以适应目前日益增加的国内外学术交流、社会发展对英语应用能力的需要。

该书由 28 个单元组成,适用于大学理工科学生各专业三、四年级或研究生的外语教学。

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前 言

随着国内外科技、学术、企事业交流与合作的发展,大学生口语交流与应用能力越来越显得迫切和重要。而我国长期的英语教学是以阅读、理解为主,忽视了口语即席交流能力的训练。目前,国家教育正在由应试教育向素质教育全面转变,外语的教学也在积极改革。为了适应国际交流的应用需要,进一步提高在校大学生或研究生的口语交流能力,我们在一定教学实践的基础上,结合专业外语教学,组织了这本口语论题训练教程。

该书的结构以论题形式出现,各论题均为目前流行口语练习专业的典型题材,具有一定的公共英语的特点。这些内容共有 28 个单元组成,具有选题面广、涉及专业领域全的特点,基本上包括了现代流行专业各个方面,有丰富的常用固定词组、约定俗成的翻译练习。

学习思路,建议以口语(朗读、提问、讨论)为主学习专业论题。通过该门课程的学习,学生不但可以熟悉大量的专业论题内容、约定俗成的专业英文翻译,而且可以通过即席组织、论题、发言,锻炼口语交流和运用英语进行专业讨论与分析的能力,达到口语交流与专业英语知识的双重学习目的。

本书中提出的论题共 996 个,基本包括了生活用语及专业知识各个方面。所提论题以练习语言、提高英语语言运用能力为主。部分讨论题在实际生活中应禁忌,需要谨慎使用。

书中的情景会话部分(role-play situations)应由学生在课后完成准备工作,课堂上以表演形式进行。书中的绕口令、谚语及其他花絮旨在丰富学生英语知识,提高学生学习兴趣,同时也是写作及口语表达有用的素材。

全书教学计划用 64 个学时完成,两个学期,每周一个论题的

训练。希望学生学习后能够达到或基本达到以下几个目标:

- 掌握一些有用的现代专业英语词语,尤其是典型或最基本专业词汇、用法和约定俗成的翻译;

- 有一定的现代口语组织与交流能力,能用口语进行广泛的生活与科技专业论题交流;

- 阅读一定量的科技专业材料,扩大外语背景知识视野,达到一定的阅读及英语即席写作能力。

由于作者水平及外语教学经验有限,书中不妥之处,敬请广大的师生批评指正。

葛全顺 李学伟

于北京 北方交通大学

1999年6月6日

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Unit One Functions in Communication

交际方法

Warm-up questions:

1. How do you introduce people?
2. How do you make an invitation?
3. How can you politely refuse an invitation?
4. What do you think are the important policies for you to get along well with other people?
5. What do you think are the main problems that affect the relationship between people?

Reading material:

1. **You may be surprised** by the informality of relations between men and women in the United States. Couples go out alone in the evening to attend a movie, concert, lecture, or party; students may get together for a "study date". In the past, the man usually asked the woman, and the man paid for the expenses of the movie, concert, or meal. Today, a woman may ask a man to go out with her. Whether the man or the woman offers the invitation, students often share the expenses.

Relations between American men and women of college age range from simple casual friendships to strong emotional and physical commitments. As your friendships develop past acquaintance, you may not always understand what your partners expect of you. Whatever the relationship, the best policy is honesty and frankness. Although sometimes embarrassing, it is best

to express your feelings and intentions so that you can avoid misunderstandings and even greater discomfort. If your date appears interested in a sexual relationship and you are not, it is very important that you say "no" clearly. You do not have to do anything you do not want to do! And if someone seems to be saying "no" to you, listen. Unwanted sexual attention is a very serious matter in the United States. Do not interpret the acceptance of a date as anything more than an agreement to meet at certain time and place and to spend some time together.

Words and expressions:

1. Commitment; things one promised to do, pledge, undertaking. 承诺
2. acquaintance; person whom one knows but who is not a close friend. 熟人
3. embarrassing; causing to feel self-conscious, awkward or ashamed. 尴尬

Discussion questions:

1. Have you ever invited someone out in your college life?
2. How would you interpret "studying date"?
3. Do you think man should pay the expenses if he takes a girl out?
4. Have you heard of the expression "go Dutch"? What do you think of the practice?
5. What do you know about the relationship between men and women in college in the USA? What do you think of the situations in China?
6. What are the best policies in getting along with friends of the opposite sex? Tell your reasons.
7. What are the differences between the two words "date" and "appointment"? How would you define "date" in Chinese con-

text?

8. Have you ever had some experiences that sometimes you feel it hard to say no? List situations where you can say no to friends who ask for something.

So various is the human mind;
Such are the frailties of mankind!
What at a distance charmed our eyes,
Upon attainment, droops, and dies

John Gunningham 1729-1773,

British poet

frailties; weakness

2. It is impolite to arrive at a dinner party more than 15 to 20 minutes late. The host or hostess usually waits for all the guests before serving the food. If someone is late, the food may be spoilt, and so might the host or hostess's mood. If you find you will have to be late, call and tell them to start without you.

It's even worse to be early! The host or hostess will probably not be ready. If you are early, drive or walk around the block a few times, or just sit in your car until the right time.

It's often important to arrive at a party on time. Some get-togethers, especially formal dinner parties depend on exact arrival times. On the other hand, for open houses, the host or hostess invites to arrive and leave between specific times, so you can arrive at any time within the times he or she gives you. It's nice to bring an empty stomach, but it's even nicer to bring a small gift. The gift should not cost a lot, or you might embarrass the host or hostess. Flowers, wine, some pretty soap for the guest bathroom, a box of candy, a bottle of inexpensive but good wine and similar gifts will do fine. Never bring money as a

Figure 1.

In an introduction, the order of a name is: (1) the given name (the name your friends and family call you), (2) the family name or surname. In other words, the first name comes first. It's important not only to learn and remember names, but to repeat them often in conversation. After the introduction, we usually call friends by their first names. Employers or older people may want you to call them by their titles and last names, such as "Mrs. Jones," "Mr. Smith," "Ms. Johnson," or "Dr. Brown."

A maiden name is a woman's last name at birth. In the United States and Canada, after a woman marries, she takes the last name of her husband in place of her maiden name. It is now becoming common, however, for women to keep their maiden names after marriage.

North Americans might kiss a close friend on the cheek in greeting (But never on the lips----unless they are very, very close!). It is not customary for Americans to greet each other with a kiss unless they had not met for a long time.

Words and expressions:

1. spoil; ruin; make something useless, valueless or unsatisfactory. 破坏
2. mood; state of one's feelings or mind at particular time. 心情
3. title; words used to show a person's rank, occupation, etc. (e. g. Lord, Mr., Doctor.) 称谓

Forbidden fruit is sweet

Discussion questions

1. Have you ever attended a party held by foreign friends?
2. Why people attending a dinner party are expected to arrive on time?

3. What are people expected to do if they are early to attend a dinner party?
4. What do you know about the use of names in English?
5. How would you address you boss at work? Why?
6. How do Americans greet each other?
7. What makes a gift? Why?
8. Do you have any other advice on getting along with people?

Extensive Discussion topics :

1. When is it appropriate/ not appropriate to strike up a conversation with a stranger?
2. How and when do you apologize?
3. How and when do you compliment?
4. How does one respond politely to a compliment?
5. When is it necessary to say something like "Excuse me"?
6. How do you give advice?
7. How do you interrupt someone?
8. On what occasion should gift be given? Why?
9. Have you ever really delighted/upset someone when you sent her/him a gift?
10. When should you say no to a gift?
11. How do people around you make their best friends?
12. How would you define "friendship"?
13. What can you expect from a friend? Make a list if you like.
14. What are the normal ways to find (meet, win) a partner/mate?
15. What are the common problems faced in finding (choosing, winning) a partner/mate?

Reference words and expressions :

Hi!

How are you doing?

Hi, buddy!
 How is it going?
 He's really cool!
 He's really smart!
 He's a nice person
 What an eye-catcher! 好一位美人
 What a sweet girl!
 She's above all praise! 她非言词所能赞美的
 She's a real beauty!
 How cute! 多可爱呀
 You're a lucky dog! 你真幸运
 How I envy you! 我多羡慕你呀
 It's commendable! 值得赞美的
 This is pretty good!
 To go movies
 To dine in a restaurant
 To buy someone a meal
 To picnic
 To go camping
 To go to a disco
 To invite someone to a dinner/movie/concert
 To be modest
 To turn to someone
 To make use of someone 向…求助
 To deceive someone into doing 骗…做了…
 Urgent
 Sincere
 Embarrassing
 Excited
 Exciting

True love/friendship

Eternal love

Dining hall

Canteen; cafeteria in the factory/army

Eating-house

Pub

To give silent approval 默许

Give the green light

Nod assent 点头同意

Share the same feeling with 和…有同感

Break a promise

Keep one's promise

Stick to one's promise

To lose confidence

Make certain

Make double sure

Hold no water 站不住脚

Kill time

Let nature take its course 顺其自然

Pay the price for 付出代价

Role-play situations:

1. You meet a classmate at a cafe in town.
2. Ask a friend to go with you to the movies.
3. You see someone sitting alone in the cafeteria. Ask him/her if you can join him/her.
4. You are in a hurry but you see a classmate who you would really like to get to know. Tell the classmate this and arrange to meet him/her at a later time.

~~~~~  
! A small leak will sink a great ship !  
~~~~~

Sample writing
Letters of application

Department of
Social Sciences
Northern Jiaotong
University
Beijing, PR. China
100044
May 31, 1999

Personnel Office
Legend Co.
Beijing, China

Dear Sirs:

Please consider me as an applicant for the position of office assistant which you advertised for in today's paper.

I have just received my diploma from Northern Jiaotong University and am eager to get a position in an office like yours, since I am especially interested in Law.

During the last two summers I worked as a messenger in the Bank of China and the Commercial Bank and learned something about office practice and routine. I can use computer and handle modern office equipment.

For information about my character and ability, I can refer you to:

Mr. Zhang Ming, Bank of China

Mr. Ling Bo, Commercial Bank

Prof. Wu Ming, my tutor at school

I shall be glad to come to your office for an interview at any

time you suggest. My telephone number is 63240500.

Very truly yours

Li Xiaoyue

Tongue twister:

Betty and Bob brought back blue balloons from the big bazaar

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly

Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow

Unit Two Personal Data

个人情况

Warm-up questions:

1. What are some things only a few people know about you?
2. What are some things that make you angry?
3. What do you hate to do?
4. What do you love doing?
5. How would you describe yourself?

Reading material:

1. **Some people don't have a choice about the way their lives go.** They really don't. They might think they do, but the way outside things push at them, push them in certain direction, there's really no choice. You do what you have to do.

That it was like for me.

I was born in 1967 on Halloween. I lived with my mother and older half-brother Kip in Hialeah, a suburb of Miami. We had an apartment, it was a two-story deal in a lower middle class area. It was an apartment that we paid for, and not a "government subsidy" kind of thing.

We weren't in the projects, but we were a block away. I went to the same schools as kids from the projects - same parties, same everything. I hung out in the projects, more or less in the ghetto. There were these run-down playgrounds, but we didn't use them, because there was always construction going on around them. Mostly we hung out in these open fields right outside our house.

We had a two-room apartment with the longest hallway.

There was one room for my mom, and my brother and I shared a room. It was tiny and cramped, but it was great. It was home, and I love it. In some ways, I *still* miss it.

In the hallway we had this piano, 'cause my mom taught piano. She gave lessons to make money, even though I remember that the piano was out of tune most of the time. Kip didn't play. She tried for years to get me to learn, but I never took the time to sit down and do it. I wasn't interested at all. Now I wish I had been, 'cause I'd love to be able to jump on a piano and start playing.

Kip and me slept side-by-side in a trundle bed, where one bed slides out from underneath the other. He's five years older than me—he was born on Christmas—and we were close in some ways, but *definitely* no in others.

We fought all the time, 24-7; 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We fought seriously. I remember big fights, involving cuts and stitches and stuff like that. The worst fight we ever had was when I threw a telephone at him and hit him in the head. He had to have stitches. I did it in retaliation for beating me up, which—now that I look back on it—I kind of deserved. What happened was; I was looking under the sink in the bathroom, I don't remember what for, some bleach or something. I never did find what I was looking for, but I did find something of Kip's—his underwear! So nasty little brother that I was, I ran into his room, waving them and yelling, "Look what I found! Your dirty underwear!"

All his friends were in the room at the time and Kip was mad—really mad. He yelled back at me, "Those aren't mine! Get them from me! Those are not mine!"

He beat me up for it, pretty bad, in front of all his friends—