

内 容 简 介

本书由密歇根州立大学在读的来自6个国家的国际学生根据自己留学生活的亲身体验所编写,对美国大学校园生活的方方面面进行了全面的介绍和具体的指导,并配有丰富的图片和大量易于操作的首频、视频等素材,同时配合建立了一个网站(<http://ott.educ.msu.edu/campusenglish/>),一方面为读者创造了真实的语言环境,更加广泛而深入地介绍了美国校园文化,另一方面使得浏览和学习本书的内容变得更加方便。

本书是一本非常实用的学习美国校园英语和了解美国校园文化的书,主要为准备到美国留学的学生编写,可自学或作为出国前培训教材使用,也宜于作为高校选修课的教科书,同时又适合于所有希望提高英语水平及了解美国文化的广大英语学习爱好者。

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Introduction

This book is designed to help new international students successfully adapt to life in American colleges and graduate schools. Eight topics are chosen to represent student life in the United States. They are Student Housing, Transportation, School System, Medical Care, Parties & Food, Dining Out, Shopping and Sports. Each topic can be explored by watching the video clips and reading the pertinent cultural notes and language notes (glossary). In addition, activities are provided in each topic for you to assess how much you have learned and to further expand your understanding of each topic.

There have been many English learning materials in the market, targeting at various audience. Then why should you, a learner craving for good English learning materials, pick this book? This book stands out in the following aspects: 1) ***The content of this book is authentic.*** Different from lots of English learning materials in which the contents are conceived solely in the authors' mind, the material in this book comes from everyday life experience of international students living and studying in the United States. In another word, this book is built on experience in real context. Therefore, there is no need for you to transfer the knowledge you will learn from the book to the real context. What you will read, see and listen to are not something made up for the learning of specific forms in the target language, but

rather things you will encounter every day when you study in the United States. 2) ***The perspective of this book took is authentic***, in the sense that the authors compiled and organized this book from the perspective of learners and all the issues included in this book are the ones learners will encounter when coming to the United States. In other words, the authors are learners themselves. Instead of teaching you something to remember, the authors try to share their stories and experiences in the language you will be using in the near future and in the real context you will be put into. Since no single person can have the experience in all aspects of the issues presented here, another advantage is that 18 current MSU students participated in the writing of this book. Thus, you could benefit from a wide range of experiences. 3) ***This book is not only about language but also about culture***. We believe language is meaningful only when it is embedded in culture. So in this book, we spend much time sharing the culture we have learned that has help us make sense of the language. 4) ***The content of this book is presented via multimedia***. In order to create an as-real-as-possible language environment, we used a lot of pictures, audio and video. We also built a web site to ease the navigation and enrich your learning experience.

As international students, we have experienced confusion, frustration and even pain as we learn and grow. We have also seen so many Chinese students with high GRE and TOEFL scores cannot communicate well with American students and have difficulties adapting to the new environment. We really hope this book will help you get more prepared for your study in the United States and further your understanding of English and American culture. Due to the constraint of time and knowledge, there must be mistakes and deficiency in this book. Your comments and critiques are more than welcome.

We owe a special debt to Ms. Xizhen Liu, the editor of this book, who made great contribution to this work. Her invaluable

suggestions and amazing productivity were essential in this enterprise. Without her, this book could not have come into existence.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the efforts and help of many of our colleagues and spouses, and others who have worked so hard to make this book a reality.

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Student Housing

Part A Introduction

Are you a new international student? Are you preparing for going abroad to study? Are you interested in learning about student housing options in the U. S. ?

Come here to enjoy and learn:

- To understand the cultural background behind student housing in the United States
- To learn the terms and expressions relevant to student housing
- To become familiar with the process of student housing in the United States

Part B Cultural Notes

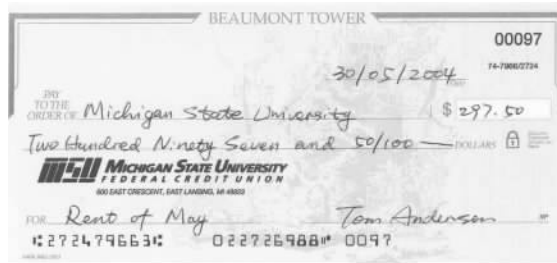
B.1 Check

Check is one of the commonly used methods of payment (checks, credit cards, cash, etc.) in the U. S.

Steps in writing a check:

1. Enter the date in the blank in upper right corner. Include the month, the date, and the year. You can write out the date (January 4, 200X) or you can use all numbers (01/04/0X).
 2. Write the name of the person or company you are paying on the Pay to the Order of blank. Get the spelling right.
 3. To the right of the Pay to the Order of blank is a blank with a dollar sign. Using numbers, write the amount in dollars and cents. Be sure to clearly place the decimal point between the dollar numerals and the cents numerals. For example: \$32.15.
 4. The next line is used to confirm the amount of the check, just in case your handwriting is hard to read on the dollar-sign blank. In clear handwriting, write out the amount using words and fractions. Write out the dollar amount. Then add “and” followed by the cents amount written as a fraction. Put the cents in the numerator’s position and 100 in the denominator’s position. For example:
Thirty-two dollars and 15/100.
- If you have any room left on the blank, draw a line to the end of the blank. So no one can add anything to what you’ve written on that blank.
5. The Memo line in the lower left hand corner is a reminder line. You can write “basketball shoes” on this line, for example. If you write several checks to the same place, like a sporting goods store, this line helps you identify which check paid for shoes, which check paid for sweatbands and shorts, and which one bought socks and a sweatshirt. Memo lines help you stay organized.
 6. The signature line, the line in the lower right corner of the check is where you write, not print, your name. Decide how you are going to sign your checks. This is a formal document, so you probably want to

sign it Thomas or Amanda rather than Tom or Mandy. You may also want to use your middle initial: Jonathan W. Robertson. Once you decide on your signature, then sign the same way on all your checks. Your bank will keep your signature on file as a way to verify your signature on checks and other documents. You should always sign your name in the same way.



B.2 Parking

In the U. S. , many places where we need to get basic living supplies (such as the supermarket, grocery store, post office, bank, etc.) are not within walking distance of where we live. A car becomes a necessity of life in the U. S. , and thus parking becomes a practical problem in the U. S.

- Off campus parking: Typically parking at your apartment, either on or off campus, is free. When you go to public places, there are either parking ramps or parking meters where you can park for a fee.
- On campus parking: Since there are only limited spaces for parking on campus, most universities don't give parking permits to students. However, in some universities, graduate students who are holding graduate assistantships may be allowed to apply for a

parking permit and be charged a certain amount of money for the parking permit. (In the case of MSU, graduate assistants are charged around \$60 for a parking permit for one semester).



B.3 Party

Expressions including “party”:

- Party animal: someone who enjoys parties a lot
- Party school: school which has many parties

Types of party:

- Ball: a large formal occasion where people dance
e. g. , MSU’s Honor Ball
- Prom: a formal dance party for high school students, that usually happens

at the end of a school year

e. g. , the senior prom

- Cocktail party: a formal party where alcoholic drinks are served
- Potluck party: a party in which everyone who is invited brings something to eat
- Housewarming: a party that you give to celebrate moving into a new house
- Bachelor party: a party given for a man the night before his wedding

B.4 Homeless People

Homeless people, sometimes also referred to as people living on the streets, are a big social problem in the U. S. In New York, the problem is particularly serious. People become homeless for many reasons, among which are unemployment, personal problems (drug addicts or alcoholics, physical incapability, etc.), family problems (domestic violence), etc. Most American cities also provide shelters for homeless people for a short period of time in the hope that they can

find a way out soon. However, without proper help, some people never get their way out, and others, even though find a way for a short period of time, may end up back on the streets again.

B.5 Host Family

A form of accommodation offered by a family living in the country where the new students visit. Homestay, an alternative housing to hotel or short term apartment living, provides a comfortable home environment with the opportunity for personal interaction. It also gives you the opportunity to experience American lifestyle and culture in the most direct way. To become a host family they must meet certain criteria. The below is an example:

- Host(s) must live near a bus stop and not more than five-seven miles to a school.
- Host(s) must offer a safe and secure environment for a student.
- Offer clean accommodations in a private bedroom, with a bed and a desk.
- Family must be interested in cultural exchange and willing to integrate their student into some of their daily activities.

B.6 Late Fee

In the U. S. , late fee is something that many people have experience with. If you pay your bills after the due date, you'll be charged a late fee. It could be in the case when you pay your tuition late, or when you pay your credit card bill late, or when you pay your electricity bill late. Late fee is typically a small amount of money (for instance, most credit card companies charge \$25 for late fee). Late fee is kind of flexible, especially in the universities. If you can provide good reasons

for paying the bill late, you may be lucky enough to get your late fee waived. But it's much better to keep track of your bill and pay it on time than to go through the hassle.

B.7 Move into a New Apartment

When you move into a new apartment, you may find need to install several services yourself:

- **Utilities.** If the rent does not include utilities, you will have to get the utilities turned on when you move in. The landlord can provide you with the name and telephone numbers of the gas, electric, and telephone companies that service your apartment. They may be able to schedule service over the phone, or they may require you to visit their offices. The gas and electric companies typically provide two payment options. The first requires you to pay the full amount due each month. The other lets you pay an estimated budget amount each month, with any difference being reconciled at the end of the year.
- **Internet Service.** Your school may provide dialup numbers that let you access the campus computer network and the Internet from home using a computer with a modem. Otherwise, the telephone company or any of a large number of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) can provide unlimited Internet access at modem speeds. Higher speed Internet access is becoming available in many major US cities. There are two main methods of providing high speed access, one using the telephone wiring (ADSL) and one using cable television wiring (cable modems).
- **Telephone Service.** When you arrange for telephone service, you will have to choose a long distance carrier. The major carriers are

AT&T, MCI, and Sprint. You can change the carrier later. After your service is installed, call each of the carriers and ask about their discount calling plans. You will need to be persistent in asking for the discount plan that offers you the greatest savings based on your calling patterns. Remember to mention that you will be making international calls. The telephone company will also offer you a variety of optional services, such as Call Waiting and Caller ID. These services cost extra money and are not necessary. They will also offer a calling card, which you can use to bill calls to your phone number from any phone. The card is free, but calls billed to the card are charged higher rates. They may also offer a credit card with calling card features. Such credit cards often apply a small rebate of your purchases on the card as a credit on your telephone bill. Soon after you arrange for telephone service, you will receive free copies of the local telephone directories. The telephone directories are known according to the color of their pages. The White Pages list the telephone numbers of residents, organized alphabetically by name. The Blue Pages, often part of the white pages, contain a list of government telephone numbers. If you need the telephone number for the local immigration office, look in the blue pages. The Yellow Pages contain listings and advertisements for businesses organized both alphabetically and by type of business, product, or service. Toll free numbers are like long distance numbers, but with an area code of 800, 888, or 877. Telephone numbers with an area code of 700 or 900 are for pay services and usually involve substantial per minute charges. We recommend asking the telephone company to block access to 700 and 900 numbers on your phone lines.