

1. 文化背景介绍

Not only is this nation made up of highly diverse ethnic, racial, and social strands, as we have noted, but, as we have also said, its inhabitants(居民) are enormously mobile(迁居) geographically(地理上). People shift and move across its length and breadth(宽度) to a remarkable degree.

美国不仅在民族、种族、社会的组成上多种多样，而且居民在各个地域间的迁居十分频繁，东西南北辗转来往的程度也令人瞩目。

This ceaseless(无休止的) mixing and merging in new communities(社区), this repeated adjustment to new environments and new people, is an important factor in trying to understand the baffling(困惑) questioning of class

in America. In the United States it is easy for people to move from one class to another on their own merits(才干), and to become an accepted part of a new settling. To do so, a person needs enough energy, determination, and ability to make a real success of something.

这种无休止的混杂和合并，组成新的社区，又反复地调整以适应新环境和新邻里。认识这一点有助于避免对美国阶层困惑不解。在美国人们很容易凭自己的才干从一个阶层进入另一个阶层，并为新环境所接纳。为此，人们必须鼓足干劲，下定决心，施展能耐，以谋求真正干出一番某一方面的大事业。

The do-it-yourself, independent, questioning American personality is another factor.

美国人的自己动手、独立自主与怀疑多问的人格特点也有助于我们认识美国的阶层。

“Success” can be defined as that which gives a man (or woman) more power than he possessed before. It can be won through skill, intelligence, leadership, sometimes sheer(纯粹的) perseverance(毅力) regardless of birth.

“成功”可以界定为赋予男人（或女人）前所未有的一种动力，可以通过技艺、智力、领导才能，有时纯凭毅力来获得，而不看出身门第。

They work hard and feel a strong sense of purpose. You will be acutely(深刻地) aware of social tensions in American life.

他们艰苦奋斗，具有强烈的使命感你会对美国生活中的社会紧张感有真切的感受。

North Americans come from frontier(边疆). The nations frontier past has brought a strong element of risking taking into the nations character.

北美人有开拓边疆的过去。过去的开拓精神在国人个性中注入了强劲的冒险作风。

Daniel Boorstin, the well-known sociohistorian, has written that "... of all American myths(神话), none is stronger than that of the loner moving west, across the land... [This] pioneering spirit is a synonym for individualism." The pioneering spirit, handed down to the present generation of Americans from their American forefathers, includes the concepts of self-reliance, self-actualization, autonomy, and personal growth.

著名的社会历史学家丹尼尔鲍斯汀这样写道：“.....在全部美国神话中，没有什么能像孤身一人闯荡西疆那样的行为更给人以强烈的印象了。这种先驱精神就是个性的同义词。”这种先驱精神包括自力更生、自我实现、自治及个人发展，在

美国世代相传至今。

Closely related to the need to “get on with the job without delay” is another widespread American characteristic, namely that of “directness”. Most of us tell each other (and will tell you) exactly where we stand on any issue. On the whole most of us could not be described as a reserved, contained, disciplined people. Take us as we are: noisy, ebullient, often quick tempered, but usually open——easy to read and understand.

与“马上干”的需要密切相关的，还有一个为美国人普遍拥有的特点，那就是“直来直去”。多数人在任何问题上均直抒己见。美国人总体上说不能算谨慎、镇定、有节制的，而往往是吵闹的，奔放的、性情急躁的，但也通常是坦率的——容易沟通与理解。

This is a highly competitive society. Americans look for speed, for facts, for a clear line.

社会竞争激烈。美国人追求时效、真实与明朗。

But with us trust and truth are of paramount(至上的) importance. If we say of a man, “You cannot trust him”, this is one of the most damning statements that can be made about him.

但对美国人来说 信任与诚实至关重要。如果我们说某人“此人不可靠”，这简直就是贬低他的最厉害的话语之一。

Here traits which lead to success are generally considered to be the willingness to work hard (at any kind job), scholarship or skill, initiative, an agreeable and outgoing personality. In other words even in the realm of personal progress, this is a “do-it-yourself” society.

一般认为，有些特点有助于成功，即埋头苦干（不管干什么）、具有一定学历或一技之长、积极主动、个性善良外向。可以说，既是崇尚个人进取的领域，也是“自己动手”的社会。

We are “slaves to nothing but the clock”, it has been said. Since people value time highly, they resent someone else “wasting” it.

有人说我们“只是钟表的奴隶”。人们珍惜时间 也就讨厌别人浪费时间。

A person behaves the way he does is due a great deal to his cultural background. That includes not only them and me, but you, too. Therefore, one of the best ways to understand Americans and get along with them is to understand their cultural values and background. Some of the values important to understand Americans are: the

American emphasis on the importance of the individual; the peculiarly American concept of friendship; the striving for equality for all people, regardless of their social status, sex, race, religion, or age; and the emphasis on progress and change.

一个人的行为方式在很大程度上归因于一个人的文化背景。包括你、我及美国人在内，都是如此因而，理解美国人并与他们友好相处的最好方法，就是理解他们的文化价值与背景对于理解美国人而言，有一些重要的价值观，比如：美国人十分强调个人的重要性，美国式的友谊观，努力追求人人平等而不在乎他们的社会地位、性别、种族、宗教信仰、年龄，以及重视发展与变革。

Of all American ideals the notion of equality has perhaps been the most influential. In the economic sense American equality means in practice equality of opportunity; everyone should have as good a chance as everyone else of achieving wealth by his own efforts; everyone is an independent person, free to make his own place in the world with minimum of restrictions imposed by the structure of his society. This conception of each person's freedom and responsibility for himself is at the centre of the idea of "the American way of life".

美国人的各种理想之中，平等思想也许是最有影响的了。在

经济上，美国人讲的平等实际上意味着机会均等；人人都应有通过自己的努力获取财富的良好机会；人人都独立自主，自由地在世上立足。社会结构施与的限制尽可能小。人人都有自由，人人对自己负责，这种思想是“美国人的生活方式”的内核。

Edward Stewart, a well-known expert on American culture, noted that in most American social relationships, “Each person is described as an irreducible value because of his humanness. When a personal confrontation is required between two persons of different hierarchical levels, there is an implicit tendency to establish an atmosphere of equality.” Given the American values of self-reliance and self-actualization, we can realize why Americans tend not to have long and deep friendships. Though their personal relationships seem to be marked by friendliness, Americans tend to avoid personal commitments that might bring obligations.

爱德华·斯图亚特（一位有名的美国文化专家）曾指出，在众多美国社会关系中，“每个人都作为一个人取得一种不能低估的价值。当不同社会阶层的两个人产生抗衡时，不言而喻就会确立一种平等的气氛。”了解了美国人那种依靠自己充分实现个人抱负的价值观，我们就会明白为什么美国人不愿与人深交。他们的个人关系尽管看起来很好，但美国人一般都

避免作出承诺而承担义务。

Because of the idea of progress, most American children believe that their parents' ideas and standards are not necessarily the best. Americans think that there is always some change to be made for the better.

由于重视进步，大多数美国儿童都认为他们父母的观点及标准未必就是尽善尽美。美国人认为，要生活得更好，必须不断变革。

If you acknowledge and understand these American values, you will realize that Americans look at everything from their own cultural points of view, just as you do. Try to be aware of this when you meet and get to know Americans, and you will eventually find Americans with whom you might like to form friendships.

如果你能认识并理解这些美国价值观，你就会明白，和我们自己一样，美国人也是从他们自己的文化观点看待一切事物的。结交美国人过程中弄懂这一点，你最终会发现你可能乐于和美国人建立友谊。

Work on your language and communication skills. Try to make friends using these techniques at every opportunity.

继续使用你的语言和交流技能。抓住一切机会，使用这些技

能去结交朋友。

English people tend to be rather conservative—a little more so, perhaps, than most others. This conservatism may be illustrated by reference to the public attitude to the monarchy.

同其他国家相比，英国人可能更倾向保守。这种保守可以用公众对君主制的态度来说明。

Meanwhile foreign travel, ever more widespread and beginning at a lower age, is changing tastes and preferences, irregularly and unpredictably.

与此同时，出国旅游日益普及，年轻人也开始加入，这将改变着兴趣与爱好。这种变化不稳定也难以预测。

Another English characteristic closely linked with conservatism, was what he called “deference”.

英国人另一个与保守密切相关的特点是所谓的“恭敬”。

The development of industry and trade was indeed making it possible for a man to rise in the world if he was hard working, ambitious, enterprising and fortunate, but nevertheless every man was ready enough to be deferential(恭顺的) towards these who were, at a given

moment, superior to him in wealth, status and power.

工商业的发展使一个人得以通过艰苦奋斗，奋发向上，抓住机会提高自己的社会地位，但大家都愿意对一时在财富、地位和权力上胜过自己的人毕恭毕敬。

The old deference of the inferior towards the superior has by now been largely replaced by an assumption that there should be politeness and decent human respect between man and man, irrespective of status. The road to success is more widely accessible than it used to be.

现在人们普遍认为，无论社会地位如何，人与人之间应该互相尊重。这也取代了传统的那种下等人对上等人的恭敬。成功之路比先前更加宽广。

It was important, if a person was to be socially acceptable, that he should at least speak with the “right” accent, standard English rather than some local pronunciation.

重要的是，一个人若要被社会所接受，就必须至少做到说“入流的”口音，是标准英语而不是方言。

There are differences between generations, though the older do not want to seem to have been left behind. They have seen their children develop values of their own and, for the most part, have found some attraction in these

values, which favour freedom and openness as well as equality.

尽管老年人不愿显得背时，代沟总是存在的。不过他们已看到他们的孩子形成自己的价值观念，而且通常也认为这些崇尚自由、开放、平等的观念尚可认同。

2. 英语口语与书面语

和老外交友说英语，就是要说口语。口语英语与书面英语是两种文体，有很大不同，表现在具有一系列的词汇、短语、语法特点。例如，大量使用由虚助词与动词结合在一起的短语动词；由代词 *that* 与 *it* 形成的习用语句；带有感情色彩的形容词及其构成的感叹语句。熟记以下语句：

◆give out (come to an end)

The supplies are beginning to give out.

◆get over (cross)

He got over while the traffic was stopped.

◆get on with (continue)

I expect you all to get on with your work while I'm away.

◆fall in with (accept)

I've decided to fall in with your plan.

◆ end off (finish)

We ended the work off with a flourish(炫耀).

(★ end off the work 同 end the work off)

◆ eat in (eat at home)

We aren't going out, and we're eating in tonight.

◆ lead out (go out first)

The men on the left will lead out.

◆ call for (demand)

The customers called for more beer.

◆ ring up (call on the telephone)

She rang up about an hour ago.

◆ drop in (fall in)

The roof dropped in on us.

◆ drive at (intend, mean)

I don't know what you are driving at. What was he driving at?

◆ draw out (become longer: of days)

The spring days are drawing out.

◆ count (up) on (depend on, rely on)

We are counting on you to help.

◆ come up to (reach the height of)

He is getting big, and comes up to my shoulder now.

◆ come out with (say)

He comes out with some funny ideas.

◆ call over (visit casually)

He called over to see us yesterday.

◆ call off (prevent from attacking)

The dog frightened me until its master called it off.

◆ build up (become stronger concentrated)

Enemy forces are building up in the hills.

◆ bring out (develop)

Her teacher wants to bring out her talent.

◆ look out for (seek)

I'm looking out for a new house.

◆ help out (assist as much as possible)

We asked them if they would help out at the meeting.

◆ pay in (put in)

She paid the cash in to her bank account.

◆ work out (come right)

The plan worked out.

◆ turn to (ask for help)

You can always turn to us.

◆ take up (improve)

The weather has taken up a bit.

◆ carry off (gain)

He was a great success at school, and carried off all the prizes.

◆ play up (play well)

I expect them to play up this afternoon.

- ◆ shut down (close completely)

The shop has shut down because of lack of trade.

- ◆ stay in (remain in position)

When the nails are screwed in, they will stay in.

- ◆ shape up (make progress)

These students are shaping up well.

- ◆ read on (continue to read)

He read on through the afternoon.



That's the catch.

That will do.

That's no telling.

That's something.

Fancy that!

I wouldn't say that

That's it.

In that case

How'd it go?

It is for me.

Have it your way.

It's up to you.

make it

get it

take it easy

And that way

这可真难为我了

就行了。

无法预料。

太好了

想想看！

我倒不那么想。

就成了。

那样的话

怎么啦？

对我来说是足够了。

随你们便。

由你决定

赶得上；能完成

明白

不用急；放心

那样的话

take it	买了；要了
That should do it.	这下该可以了吧。
It's going well.	不错。
That's not the case.	事实并非如此。
It's a go!	一言为定。
That's the way it goes.	这是必然的。

在口语中，时态也具有文体色彩，它的使用有时与语法基本概念不一致，但在长期使用中逐渐被人们所接受。例如：

—I thought I'd drop in for a chat. 我想到你处聊聊天。

—Good, just come over. 行哪，过来吧。

(★ drop in: come 用于非正式的社交活动 较随便。)

It's time I met Mr Charles. I've to go now.

到了我见查里兹先生的时候，我得走了。

It's about time we left. 我们该走了。

—Couldn't you stay a bit longer? 干嘛不再待一会儿？

(★ 以上 3 句都用动词过去时 thought, met 和 left 表示一般现在时。)

表示心理感觉的动词 like 的进行时通常用于口语中，书面语用一般式表示。试比较：

How are you liking this hot weather? (口语)

How do you like this hot weather? (书面语)

有时过去完成时和过去完成进行时都可用的情况下，口语更倾向于用过去完成进行时。例如：

I'd worked for three hours when he called. (口语)

I'd been working for three hours when he called. (书面语)

表示到这里和那里的 **here** 和 **there** 通常放在句末，但在感叹句中可以放在句首。例如：

Here he comes! 看，他走来了!

Here comes the bus 公共汽车来了!

There she goes! 看，她到那边去了!

这里，用的是现在时态。如果不是感叹式的，那么就非得用现在进行时态。例如：

He is coming. 他走来了。

The bus is coming. 公共汽车正开过来。

She's going. 她要走了。

口语中常用感叹句，其中很多是用具有感情色彩的形容词表达。在这里举几段例子：

—Yes, there is a shark. Dave, swim! Swim, Dave! It's behind you! Swim, Dave!

—Let me see. Let me have a look. [Snatching(抓住) the binoculars(双筒望远镜) back.] Oh, yes, you're