

<<美国老师教你说出好英文>>

图书基本信息

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前言

Almost every day Chinese friends ask, "Michael, how can I improve my spoken English?" This book is my answer to the question. Usually when someone asks me for advice about speaking better English, I only have time for a short answer. I try to be as helpful as possible, but more time is needed. I hope the people who are still asking how to improve their English will read this book. If you want to speak better English, this book was written for you.

You may be asking, "Why isn't this book written in Chinese only?" Well, for one thing, I'm an American and my English writing is much better than my Chinese writing. But, there's another more important reason I wrote it in English. The purpose of this book is to help you improve your Spoken English. It's really hard to improve English without some sort of English environment. When you read books in Chinese, your mind is in a Chinese environment. I recommend before you read the Chinese translation, try to read only the English. This book is written in English so you can enjoy the benefit of an English environment. The stories and examples in this book are true and they are about real people, but in order to protect their identity, some of the names and places have been changed. Those left unchanged are used with permission. This book is not an English textbook. It's not intended to replace textbooks already being used in classes, especially reading books. If you can read and understand at least half of the contents of this book, I'm sure you've already studied English from lots of textbooks. Even though this is not a reading textbook, studying it will still be a good exercise for your reading ability. However, this book is about spoken English, not reading. The purpose of this book is not to teach you English. Its main function is to clearly show you how to quickly improve your spoken English. No, it's not a textbook at all, but it is a book to help you use the knowledge you have already gained, through classes, books or other materials, to speedily become a fluent English communicator.

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内容概要

You are holding in your hand a book that will most likely change the way you think about learning and speaking English.

The fact that you bought this book is proof you really want to improve your spoken English.

You have studied English under many different teachers, probably all very skilled.

You have taken English exams.

You've studied with lots of English textbooks, but you are not satisfied with your present ability to communicate in English.

Now you have chosen to read a book that will take you beyond classroom and textbook study, into the real world of freely speaking English.

Although I've taught Oral English classes for more than twelve years, I prefer to call them by another name.

I like to refer to those classes, and the topic of this book, as English Communication.

Why do we study a foreign language? For that matter, why do we even learn our own mother language? Is it not for the purpose of communicating with other people? What about English? People all over the world are learning English so they can communicate with people from English speaking countries.

They also study English to talk with non-native English speakers from other nations who have learned to speak English.

The purpose of language is communication.

Therefore, in this book sometimes the words Oral English or Spoken English are replaced with English Communication.

That's why we learn language to communicate with people.

Lots of people in China study English.

Far less people can actually communicate well in this language.

Some are satisfied with high exam scores.

Others just want to pass their English classes so they can move on to other courses.

Many people are only interested in being able to read English, especially if they have to read English instructions for their jobs or understand English on the computer.

These are all good reasons to study English, but the contents of this book are designed for people like you: People who are not satisfied with just passing exams and reading, people who are eager to go out and really communicate with this language.

You are reading this book, instead of just studying another textbook: This shows that you are now ready to take the next step toward successful English communication.

Fluent communication takes more than just studying.

It takes action.

It requires taking the actions you are preparing to read about in the following chapters.

The methods for improving your English communication skills in this book are not complicated.

They are not meant to be complicated because the best ways to improve oral English are not complicated.

In fact, most of this book is written in very simple English.

There's no need to make your training any more complex than it needs to be.

I often tell my students, Spoken English is not complicated, but it isn't easy either.

It's simple, but hard work.

It does require self-discipline but it doesn't have to be so complex that nobody can figure out what it means.

In my experience teaching English in China, I have found that some of the worst English speakers were also the most complex ones.

I've tried to make them understand that simple is better, but they are not willing to listen.

They have believed for years that complicated is more scholarly.

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Sadly, those students will never be good English communicators. They are the ones who will just read a few chapters of this book, then throw it aside and proudly say, This book is too simple.

They will go back to their complicated scholarly books and continue becoming worse and worse at speaking natural English.

On the other hand, there are wise people, like you, who will see the simplicity of this book and honestly say, Maybe this foreigner really does know what he is talking about.

I'll give it a try.

These people may or may not already be good at speaking English, but they have a bright future of fluently and freely communicating in English.

They don't care if proud people look down on them for their simple approach.

They are not worried about higher exam scores of their classmates.

They are willing to try the methods in this book, and, while the others are just becoming more complicated, they will become the best English communicators in China.

- or, where ever in the world they want to go.

As you read this handy guide, I hope you will feel my heart.

I hope you will realize .

that I love China and Chinese people.

I really want you to succeed.

The whole world is speaking English today, and I want you, my Chinese friend, to be one of the best of those English

speakers.

I want YOU to go out and communicate freely with the rest of the world.

I want YOU to be able to effectively use English in your job.

Whether you go abroad or make friends with international visitors in China, I want YOUR English conversations to be fluent and natural.

As you read this book and try these methods, I invite YOU to join me in the great adventure of the real world of English communication!

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### 作者简介

美国密歇根州人，毕业于维京国际大学，取得了国际关系硕士学位。  
1995年初次到中国，随后在呼和浩特执教，1998年移居北京，目前-5妻子G racelynn和一双儿女居住在此。

时任中国人民大学的专职外教，及北京《环球时报》英语版的viewpoint栏目专栏作家。  
独著《有朋自

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Appendix 4 Interviews about improving Spoken English 有关提高英语口语的访谈

章节摘录

A smile can communicate much more meaning than any amount of vocabulary. Sometimes a friendly handshake is more friendly than kind words. When a friend is sad you may not have the right words to bring comfort, but when you put your hand on his or her shoulder your communication is much clearer than anything you could say with your mouth. Likewise, the meanings of words can be changed by raising your voice or speaking softly. These gestures and tones speak louder than thousands of words. Hands sometimes speak clearer than mouths. When you say, "It will cost three yuan," hold up three fingers. When describing something tall, you're your hand up high, and hold it down low to describe short things. Nod and shake your head when saying "yes" and "no." Don't talk with your hands in your pockets. Take them out and use them to make your meaning clear-in any language ! I cannot speak the languages of Korea, Pakistan, Japan, Mexico or Italy, but I thoroughly enjoyed my time in those countries. I bought things, ordered food, and traveled without the benefit of vocabulary. The only thing I had to rely on was the tone of my voice and body language. ....

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### 媒体关注与评论

Don't read this book unless you really want to "speak like a native." After reading this book, your spoken English will never be the same again!

If you are one of the many Chinese people asking, "How can I improve my English?"

"You will definitely find your answers here." —Dwight Nordstrom, 美国太平洋资源国际 (PRI) 总裁

成功不一定是要在另一个领域独辟蹊径，而是要把同样的事情做得更加出色。

本书的创作和出版意义正在于此。

作者是一位在中国教了十多年英语的美国人，他基于自己的切身体会和教学经验，告知读者以怎样的方法和技巧学习英语口语才最有效。

我相信它会是大家的良师益友，并给大家带来全新的学习感受！

——李鲁平，中国农业大学外语系教授 如果你在学校学了十几年英语，却从来没有信心看完一本英文书，那么这本书是一个不错的开始。

我凭我的阅读经验确信，你会饶有兴致地读懂一个美国人如何只身一人来到中国教授英语，并认同他视角中的中美文化差异。

你还可能在书中看到“你自己”，因为他指出的一些英文表述问题很可能也发生在你的身上。

最重要的是，当你合上这本书时，你会对自己点头微笑说，“我真的看懂并看完了一本英文书，而且并非是学校要求我读的教材。

”——王晓红，中央财经大学外国语学院院长 读Michael的书，仿佛又一次步入他的口语课堂。

东西方的文化透过风趣幽默的语言而充满活力；异国他乡的生活方式借着明朗轻快的文字而被娓娓道来。

Michael从一个美国人的角度，结合他在中国的生活经历，向我们阐释了适合中国人的学习英语口语的有效方法。

而他对于爱和社会关怀方面的探讨更是引起我们内心深处的思考，让我们在这个物欲横流的世界回归真实的自我。

——许健，博士，作者学生

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### 编辑推荐

成功不一定要在另一个领域独辟蹊径，而是要把同样的事情做得更加出色。本书的创作和出版意义正在于此。作者是一位在中国教了十多年英语的美国人，他基于自己的切身体会和教学经验，告知读者以怎样的方法和技巧学习英语口语才最有效。我们相信它会大家的良师益友，并给大家带来全新的学习感受！

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