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Better Speaking 3 在中国提高英语口语

Insert

*Love lives beyond the tomb,
And earth, which fades like dew!
I love the fond,
The faithful, and the true.*

Read the texts (especially dialogues) out loud, imitate the intonation of the speakers, and recite the passages to your teacher or yourself

Jean: 大家好，欢迎收听我们本期 bbcukchina.com 的节目，我叫董征。

William: And I'm William Kremer. This is Better Speaking, our special little series about how to improve your English speaking.

Jean: 今天我们要来共同研究的问题就是，我们如果人在中国，没有特别理想的英语语言环境的话，那如何来有效地提高自己的口语水平呢？首先，我们邀请中国英语演讲比赛的冠军 Jin Lu 同学给我们分享一下她的学习心得。

William: Yes, of course it's not easy to learn a language thousands of miles away from where it's spoken every day, but we've got lots of tips to help you on your way towards....

Jean: Better Speaking!

MUSIC PEAK AND OUT

Old music.

Insert

*Love lives beyond the tomb,
And earth, which fades like dew!
I love the fond,
The faithful, and the true.*

*Love lives in sleep:
'Tis happiness of healthy dreams:
Eve's dews may weep,
But love delightful seems.*

- Jean: 怎么节目一上来先给我们听了一首英文诗啊，这又是什么用意呢 William?
- William: Well, that's part of a poem by the English poet John Clare, who lived about 150 years ago. Now, one of the interesting things about Clare is that he was born into a very poor family in the countryside and he became a farm labourer. But despite having very little experience of education or of literary life, John Clare still became a great poet. I wonder if you have any similar figures in Chinese literature, Jean?
- Jean: Yes, we do William. 比如说我们中国北宋的大文学家欧阳修也是从小家境贫寒，小时候家里连纸和笔都买不起，不过他后来也成为了中国的文学巨匠之一。
- William: Anyway, we're not talking about poetry today but this question of, how is it possible to become really good at something when you have little direct experience of it? How can you become better at English speaking when you have very few opportunities to practise?
- Jean: 为了给大家解答这个问题，我想首先请大家先来听听 Jin Lu 同学给我们谈的一段心得。Jin Lu 同学是 2009 年度 21 世纪报英语演讲大赛的冠军得主。
- William: Yes, I had the pleasure of seeing Jin Lu speak at that competition. And it really amazes me how people can become that good at English speaking even when they have never left China.
- Jean: Jin Lu 现在她虽然已经不在中国了，她正在德国的 Heidelberg 大学读书，不过应我们的要求，她给我们发来了几段谈话录音，来帮助那些在中国的英语爱好者朋友们提高口语，让我们先来听听她的第一段录音。

Insert

When it comes to improving your spoken English, I would suggest three ways that I have tried myself. The first is to make full use of your English textbooks. Read the texts (especially dialogues) out loud, imitate the intonation of the speakers, and recite the passages to your teacher or yourself. I did this almost every day at school (sometimes even when I was in the shower), and had a lot of fun assuming different voices and tones. As a result it made me very sensitive to the language and comfortable with speaking it like my own.

- Jean: 如果大家第一次没能完全听懂这段录音的话也没有关系，你可以从我们的网站 bbcukchina.com 下载录音和文字稿。
- William: Well, Jin Lu there was talking about the benefits of reading.
- Jean: 是的，她说她把自己英语课本里的对话大声阅读，尽量模仿说话者的语音语调并且背诵课文。让我们把她的这段话再听一遍...

Insert

Read the texts (especially dialogues) out loud, imitate the intonation of the speakers, and recite the passages to your teacher or yourself. I did this almost every day at school (sometimes even when I was in the shower), and had a lot of fun assuming different voices and tones.

- Jean: 在我们下周的节目中，我们会更集中地带大家学习如何改进英语发音和语调，不过刚才说到的大声朗读确实就已经是一个好办法。
- William: I'm glad Jin Lu gave us this tip, Jean, because I think a lot of people don't realise how much reading can help with speaking. Think about it this way. The best thing for fluency is to think in the language you are speaking in. So English learners should practise doing that: they should practise thinking in English. And what are you doing when you read something? You're thinking someone else's thoughts.
- Jean: 是的，阅读当然是掌握一门外语的好方法，尤其在语言的组织和词句的使用方面都非常有帮助。Jin Lu 她自己的方法之一就是一再重复朗读每一个英语段落，直到能够整段背下来为止。
- William: Yes, there is a massive benefit to re-reading material until it's there in your head, it's automatic. The writer's thought patterns can then become your thought patterns. So Jin Lu mentioned textbooks; for general reading I would recommend starting off on graded readers.
- Jean: Graded readers 就是分级读本，就是专门为水平不同的学习者而出版的书籍。
- William: It's much better to start off easy and build up than to just try and start reading Charles Dickens straight away.
- Jean: 是啊，我们一时半会还看不了狄更斯的原著！等以后功夫深了以后再啃它。刚才听过 Jin Lu 的录音我也觉得，她这样开朗外向的性格也对她的英语有很大的帮助，能一边冲澡一边背诵自己的英文课文，很有意思。那我也想和你讨论一下 William，一个人的性格和他的语言学习会有很大的关系吗？
- William: Well yes, I do think that's important, Jean. We talked about confidence in the first Better Speaking programme. To be a great speaker you have to be the kind of person who's willing to take risks, to perhaps make some mistakes and occasionally look a bit silly.
- Jean: Yes, by the way did I ever tell you you are a great speaker, William?
- William: What are you saying? Are you saying that I occasionally look a bit silly, Jean?
- Jean: No, no! Not *occasionally*... Anyway! 让我们再来听一下 Jin Lu 的下一段录音吧。

Insert

My second tip for improving your speaking is to be active in any English environment available to you. I used to visit a public English corner very often in my city, where the enthusiasm of the English learners, old and young alike, greatly encouraged me. Later in college, I pushed myself further in the English debating society, which was a tortuous experience at the beginning of course. But as I steadily improved my speaking and debating skills through regular practice, it became a great enjoyment.

Jean: 刚才 Jin Lu 说到她会经常去参加一个英语角 English Corner, 还参加了学校里的辩论小组 debating society。她说一开始参加辩论小组她觉得特别的 torturous 受折磨一样, 不过后来她就喜欢上了。William, 你对这样的英语角和辩论小组怎么看呢?

William: I think that these are great places for building confidence, putting your new vocabulary into practice and also for practising your listening comprehension.

Jean: 那么对那些经常参加英语角的朋友们, 你有什么建议吗?

William: Well, I think what Jin Lu calls an English corner is a really convenient arrangement because I think people can just go there when they're free and practise their English. Maybe they'll meet their friends or make some new friends. But possibly even better than that is a conversation club. And the advantage of a conversation club is that you can decide on a topic in advance, learn lots of interesting vocabulary relating to that topic, and then go and practise it at the event.

Jean: 好, 就是说参加一个这样的英语俱乐部, 大家可以事先一起讨论出一个话题, 这样可以有重点地进行会话并且学习相关的新单词。而参加辩论小组的话, 我们有时候就必须要有个论点, 也要有自己的论据和主见, 是一个更激烈的辩论过程。

William: Yes and that's a big advantage. Look, people who are really good at speaking a language, even if it's their own language, are often people who have opinions and ideas about the world and who want to communicate those ideas. So these people will really enjoy being in a debating society and it will help them become great speakers. However, I do have a couple of reservations about debating societies.

Jean: Hmm... A couple of reservations 有两点保留意见。

William: Yes, two things. Firstly, the language of debating societies can be a little bit formal, much more formal than normal English conversation. And secondly, the flow of debate is quite fixed isn't it, with two minutes for this person and two minutes for that person and so on. So that's very good for developing an argument but natural conversation is something much freer, that's constantly passed between people.

Jean: 你是觉得辩论社团在辩论的时候使用的语言比较的 formal 正式的, 而且整个语言的组织也没有日常会话那么自然顺畅, 而是层次分明。确实, 对话并不是一个人的演讲, 对吧?

William: Exactly. One of the skills of making conversation is what teachers call turn-taking.

Jean: 是的, 有的时候初学英语的人确实在对话中有时掌握不准该什么时候让对方说话回答, 或者他们自己就不好意思回答或者自由表达自己的观点。那我们接下来的内容也和辩论有些关系, 就是本期照例的 Takeaway Tip, 这次我们要给

大家的小贴士是一些我们在同意和不同意说话对方的时候可以用到的一些自然和有效的词语。

Special Music

Voice: 首先，让我们来了解一些看来非常简单的事情 – 同意或者不同意某人的观点。为了帮助大家掌握，我们会先播放一段两个人有关电影的一段对话。

首先，让我们了解一下如何表示同意某人的意见。英语是母语的人一般会说 **yes** 或者更常用的 **yeah**。那么我们如何自然地去说这样的词呢？请听下面的例句录音。

A: I just think it's great that a woman has finally won the Best Director award at the Oscars.

B: Yeah, I totally agree with you there.

他说，**yeah I totally agree with you there**。让我们再听一遍。

A: I just think it's great that a woman has finally won the Best Director award at the Oscars.

B: Yeah, I totally agree with you there.

当英语是母语的人想表示不同意对方观点的时候，他们一般都不会用到 **no** 这个词。刚才例句中第二个说话的人在这种情况下是怎么说的呢？

A: I think America still makes the best movies in the world.

B: Well actually I think there are some really interesting films coming out of Asia right now.

第二个说话的人说 **well actually** 就已经表示他所持的观点和对方不同。

A: I think America still makes the best movies in the world.

B: Well actually I think there are some really interesting films coming out of Asia right now.

其实，你在表示同意对方的同时也可以表达出你其实持有不同的观点，所以下面我们最后要学到的短语非常有用。

A: Avatar is the biggest-selling movie ever.

B: Yeah, but that doesn't mean it's the best.

第二个说话的人说 **yeah but**。就是说他同意对方的意见，不过他自己对此也有不同的观点。

A: Avatar is the biggest-selling movie ever.

B: Yeah, but that doesn't mean it's the best.

所以当表达同意和异议的时候，这三个词语非常有效 – **yeah I totally agree with you there**, **yeah but** 还有 **well actually**。

William: Hello again. Well we're going to stay with the movie theme now as we listen to Jin Lu's final tip for improving your speaking in China.

Insert

The third way I would suggest you can improve your speaking is to watch English-language films CLOSELY. How closely? Until when in a similar situation, you may naturally blurt out something that the character says in the film! Well of course it should be a film you really like. I have watched, for example, Mona Lisa Smile many times, and each time it touched me somewhere, a striking phrase, a nice line, or an intense conversation. So I intentionally memorised them and repeated a few times. Now in my own art or literature classes, these fragments will sometimes just suddenly flow out in my mind, as if the charm of the language had already become mine.

Jean: 在刚才的谈话录音中 Jin Lu 建议大家多看英语原版电影，一直重复地看，直到你能把片中的台词不由自主地说出来 blurt it out.

Insert

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Jean: So William, how many times have you seen Mona Lisa Smile 《蒙娜丽莎的微笑》看过几遍了？

William: Er...I think that Jin Lu was right to point out that you should watch films that you actually like, Jean!

Jean: 我觉得让我比较有感触地一点就是我们刚才说的重复阅读和学习英语文章，一遍一遍地看有时候实在是比较枯燥的，而在看电影的时候即使反复地看也能看出新的内容，也不会感到太枯燥。So the first time you watch it you could watch it with subtitles 第一遍看可以先看字幕...

William: Yeah. And then the second time, you could keep the subtitles but only look at them when you get really lost.

Jean: Then the third time, you could just watch it in English.

William: And then maybe a fourth time Jean, you could actually press pause and you could repeat back what some of the characters are saying. I think that that's a really good idea Jean because once you know the story in a film it's much easier for you to focus on the language and on what people are saying. So actually, we've had some great tips from Jin Lu today but is there anything that you want to add?

Jean: Er well, 我们今天确实谈到了好几个方面。我想唯一补充的一点就是，随着现代技术的发展，我知道已经有好多英语爱好者可以和世界不同国家的朋友们在网上进行沟通了，现在在中国我们也有不少这样的跨国界交友网站。

William: Well that's something our listeners can investigate after the programme. But before that, let's have our recap.

Voice: 加大阅读量。阅读可以帮助你提高对英语语言结构的认识和掌握，也能帮助你使用英语进行思考。大声朗读还可以改善发音。

参加英语角、英语对话俱乐部和辩论社团这样的活动和组织。可以和其他成员事先定出一个话题来有方向性的讨论。不要怕表达自己的不同意见！

反复观看自己喜欢的英语原版电影。看过几遍之后可以关掉字幕，锻炼记忆电影中的英语用语。

William: Well that's the end of today's programme. Jean, we really must thank Jin Lu for her helpful tips today.

Jean: 是的 William，我们不仅要谢谢 Jin Lu 给我们提的这些建议心得，也要感谢她为我们在中国的亿万英语学习者做出了这么好的一个榜样。她对英语的热爱和自己的自信都是她成功的关键因素。

William: Yeah, I totally agree with you there, Jean.

Jean: Thank you William.

William: Well next week is the final episode in this series Better Speaking. Join us then to find out how you can make what you say sound much more natural. Till then, bye bye!

Jean: Bye!