

國立澎湖科技大學應用外語系

英文實務專題

A Comparative Study on English Dialogues from
Second Language Learners' Perspective:
English Textbooks in Taiwan vs. American Situation
Comedies

第二語言學習者視角下的英語對話比較研究：
臺灣英文教科書 vs. 美國情境喜劇

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中文摘要

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摘要

Touchstone 是目前大學生常用的英語教材。本教材涉及詞彙、語法和簡短對話等各種內容，使學生能夠有效地理解學習目標和內容。情景喜劇（本研究中的 *Friends*）是學生在課堂外學習英語的有效方式之一。它包括更多慣用的英語、外國文化和一些價值觀。因此，根據我們的研究，我們比較 *Friends* 和 *Touchstone* 來發現它們的優點和缺點。因此，我們的目標是研究哪些材料對於口頭表達的學生更有效。另外，我們的目標是研究哪些材料對於口頭表達的學生更有效。

我們的項目採用實驗和觀察來比較使用教科書 *Touchstone* 教學和使用美國情景喜劇 *Friends* 教學的大學生英語學習的不同效果。在實際播放電影教學的實驗中，觀察學生的英語水平是否優於普通教科書，學習效果是否更顯著。在我們的測試中，我們為每位測試對象提供了一段來自 *Friends* 的短片（其中莫妮卡的喝醉了，只知道她的朋友從一個三十歲的人那里扔了一個驚喜的生日派對的一部分）並根據我們的研究步驟進行測試。我們要求測試者觀看短片，模仿對話和語調，理解場景中的笑話，並向測試者提出有關短片的一些問題。

我們從不同的角度比較 *Touchstone* 和情景喜劇，包括廣義和狹義。從廣義上講，我們比較英語教科書和美國電視劇，並將這個主題分為學習效率、實際應用和價值三個部分。從狹義上講，這是 *Touchstone* 和 *Friends* 之間具體內容的比較。

根據研究結果，美國情景喜劇對學生的英語學習有積極影響。從某種意義上說，情景喜劇能夠提高學習效率，提供更實用的對話教材，並幫助學生樹立價值觀。另一方面，在基礎英語知識的學習中，英語教材有自己的價值。從理論上講，通過結合像 *Friends* 這樣的情景喜劇來複製關於改革教科書的研究是有益的。有一種理論認為，如果政府或學校可以通過用情景喜劇取代教科書的原始內容來改革教科書。通過情景喜劇的優勢，教師可以幫助學生更輕鬆有效地學習英語。另外，關於不適當內容的情況是可以解決的。教師可以簡單介紹情景喜劇的背景或明智地選擇情景喜劇以避免這個問題。

關鍵詞: *Touchstone*、*Friends*、情境喜劇、英語課本、實驗和觀察、廣義和狹義、對照、積極的影響

英文摘要

A Comparative Study on English Dialogues from Second Language Learners' Perspective: English Textbooks in Taiwan vs. American Situation Comedies

Abstract

Touchstone is an English textbook commonly used by college students at present. This textbook refers to various contents such as vocabulary, grammar and brief dialogues, which enable students to understand the learning targets and contents efficiently. Sitcom (*Friends* in this research) is one of the effective ways for students to learn English outside the classroom. It includes more idiomatic English, foreign cultures and some values. However, both *Friends* and *Touchstone* certainly have different influences on English learning. Therefore, according to our research, we compare *Friends* and *Touchstone* to discover the advantage and the disadvantage of each. Furthermore, we aim to research which materials are more effective for students with their oral presentation.

Our project adopts Experimental and Observation to compare the different effects of college student study English under using textbook *Touchstone* teaching and using America sitcoms *Friends* teaching. Under the experiment of actually playing the film to teach the students, observe whether the students' English proficiency is better than the use of general textbook and whether the learning effect is more significant. In our test, we provided each tested subject a short film from *Friends* (A part of Monica get drunk and only know her friends throw her a surprise birthday party from the one where all turned thirty) and according to our research steps to do the test. We asked the tester to watch the short film, imitate the conversation and intonation and comprehend the joke in the scene and also made some questions about the short film to the testers.

We compare *Touchstone* and sitcom from different perspectives, including broad sense and narrow sense. In the broad sense, we compare English textbooks and American TV series and divide this subject into three parts, learning efficiency, practical application, and values. In the narrow sense, that is a comparison of specific contents between *Touchstone* and *Friends*.

According to research result, American sitcoms have positive effects on students' English learning. In a sense, sitcoms are able to enhance learning efficiency, provide

more practical dialogue material, and assist students with values building. On the other hand, in the study of basic English knowledge, English textbooks have their own values. Theoretically, it would be beneficial to replicate the study on reforming the textbooks by combining with sitcoms like *Friends*. There is a theory that what if the government or school can reform the textbooks by replacing the original contents of the textbooks with sitcoms. With the advantages of sitcoms, teachers can help students learn English more easily and effectively. Also, the situation about the inappropriate contents is solvable. Teachers can simply introduce the background of the sitcoms or choose the sitcoms wisely to avoid this problem.

Keywords: *Touchstone*, *Friends*, sitcom, English textbook, Experimental and Observation, broad sense and narrow sense, comparison, positive effects

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Chapter One-Introduction

Background and Literature Review

Students are changing. The traditional teaching methods should be modified accordingly. Most students cannot pay attention to the content that teachers show in the class, which makes students lose their interests in learning English. Moreover, the active consciousness of Taiwan's students to learn foreign language is weak, and they are easy to give up. The students seldom preview the textbooks before the class, which would cause them hard to understand the content of the textbooks. Also, the teacher has some tests for students in order to understand that how much the students comprehend during the class. The effectiveness of learning is not good enough as teachers' expectations, which makes students reject learning English. However, English is an international language. It is a compulsory subject in classes, and that is why most students are forced to learn English. In the process of learning English, most students don't have any feelings. They just regard English as a compulsory subject. If students can understand the main reason of learning English, which is to communicate with foreigners without any obstacles, comprehend the content of the news without waiting for translation, or have more job opportunities in the future, then they may be more motivated to learn English. In traditional English teaching, textbooks are used as the teaching materials. Students are always taught to study from the textbooks, listen to what teachers say, follow to the dialogue of the textbook and study the grammars the textbooks show them. It causes a situation that students would prefer writing to talking to other people. It will make students only use the grammar and content from the textbook in the exam. And when after classes, if the students don't review the content from the textbooks, they will probably forget about the content from the textbook. Furthermore, students seldom speak English in their daily lives. They can feel unfamiliar with this language. It is hard to apply the knowledge that students learn from the class to the daily life.

Textbook is not only beneficial for teachers in terms of helping them to prepare the materials, and achieve the teaching aims and objectives but also textbook helps students to achieve their learning needs (Ekowati, 2017, p. 14). Other experts such as Jack Richards stated those textbooks are key component in most language program. For teachers, textbooks or course books either required or supplementary provide content and teaching-learning activities, which shape much of what happen in the classroom said Celce Murcia. (Atik, 2017, p. 2). The textbook we sample is *Touchstone*. Most textbooks are boring, rigid, and focused on grammars, which can reduce students' interests of learning English and start make them to fear it. In addition, in daily life, there are few opportunities for students to practice oral English conversation in the class in Taiwan. Most students in Taiwan's English classes usually only read textbooks, and rarely apply the dialogue they learned from the books to life. Besides, students always complain that the learning materials are boring, limited in content and in pronunciation learning, and focused on the grammar. When the students meet some actual foreigners, they will have problems to communicate with those foreigners due to lack of practicing and the fear of bad pronunciation, which can make the students not be able to apply something they learn from classes to that situation.

However, with the help of technology, there are numerous new ways for students to learn English instead of the old and traditional style. Using videos is one of them. Some videos are made into teaching videos for people or students to learn English. For those students who start to learn English, it is a good option for them. Compared with textbooks, videos will not be limited by place and time. Students can learn English whenever and wherever they like. Because in traditional English teaching, most of the teachers are using textbooks to teach students learning English. As textbooks, there will be multiple questions or exercises for students to solve or finish. If students cannot understand the questions of the textbooks by themselves or with other people's help, then their learning efficiency will become lower. Moreover, the videos will have a clearer pronunciation and a more comprehensive communication than the textbooks. However, these kinds of videos have the same shortages as the textbooks do. Some serious

and conservative contents remain in these videos, which still cannot get the attention of students. For example, some textbooks will be paired with discs in which hold some videos whose contents are from the textbooks. Those video are designed limitedly and deliberately in order to teach students learning English. Usually, these videos are made by artificial voice which is made in computer, which are lack of emotions and make the story dull. Nevertheless, some videos like American sitcoms, which are rarely utilized in conventional English teaching, have a great influence on students because of their attractive stories. Compared with those videos used in English teaching, students can find their own pleasures in the sitcoms. The content is also more relevant to the real life, which can make students understand clearly and easily.

In a sitcom, there are many characters, and each one has their own different personalities. Each episode also has different types of stories. Thus, students would not be confused just because they miss any episodes. Since the content of every sitcom is a complete story line, it is easy for students to range time during watching the sitcoms due to its integrity of the story. Furthermore, it is not like other series that would make you want to addictively and crazily catch up with the stories. Every story of each episode is generally a matter of incidents that could happen in real life. For English learners, these contextual contents are more relevant for them to learn, and it allows them to learn from the conversations between the characters in the sitcoms. Of course, if we can try to learn English via this way, there is a chance that our vocabulary can be increased dramatically; our listening skill can be sharpened; we can recognize different accents from different places; furthermore, we may be able to get to know about the special parts of the cultures of other places. What's more, every character has his or her personality, and there must be some differences in the ways they talk.

Purpose of Study

This paper will focus on the American situation comedy *Friends*. This is an amusing comedy in the United States, with a total of 10 seasons.

The show is popular in more than 100 countries and has won many awards. It also has broadcasted for ten years. *Friends* do not only catch the situations of modern English, but also makes a lead of the usage of American-English. It is a good choice for English learners. The funny and unspoken way is the feature of the show. The humor and daily lives of the show can be an appropriate learning materials and a strong motivation for English learners. In addition, there are various characters with different personalities in the play, which can attract students' attention and help them imitate dialogues in different occasions and situations, making the learners to become more aware of American culture. With some humorous clips in this sitcom, learners can have fun when learning English, which can help them learn English spontaneously without the supervision of other people like teachers. There are a large number of non-English speaking people, little troubles finding sources that can explain some special meanings form the episode. However, when watching the show, the learners might encounter some difficulties in understanding of the conversations. Those factors are puns, slang, and culture differences. Nonetheless, students can guess the content of stories through the eyes, expressions, and gestures of those actors play in the sitcom, which can deepen the impression of the content on them. Compared with textbooks, sitcoms like *Friends* can enrich many aspects of life applications.

Sitcoms (the American sitcom, *Friends* we referenced in this research), are now considered as a teaching materials of language teaching. It reflects the reality usage of daily conversation. *Touchstone* is a textbook that students use in classes. Various contents such as vocabulary and grammar can make students be able to understand the subject and details efficiently. Nevertheless, both of *Friends* and *Touchstone* certainly provide learners different effects of English learning. Thus, in order to have a confirmed answer to our conjecture, we have a comparative study on teaching English with textbooks and sitcoms like *Friends*. Before we start, we make a list of questions that we hopefully find some objective answers to. First, in students' English learning, which one can effectively improve students' vocabulary and the listening skill, textbooks or sitcoms? Second, as the sitcoms used in students' English teaching, can their accents become

slighter? Third, as the sitcoms used in students' English teaching, can they normalize the skill they learn from the sitcoms in real life? Fourth, as the sitcoms used in students' English teaching, can it effectively help students to understand a culture of a foreign country?

Chapter Two-Research Methods

Our project adopts Experimental and Observation to compare the difference effectiveness of college student study English under using textbook “Touchstone” teaching and using America sitcoms “Friends” teaching. Under the experiment of actually playing the film to teach the students, observe whether the students' English proficiency is better than the use of general textbooks after one semester, and whether the learning effect is more significant.

Research Steps

We invited 10 students who have used Touchstone as their textbooks to an interview and try to increase their oral skills by showing a short scene from *Friends*.

Teaching with sitcom or textbook, which one is better? To find out the answer to this question, we started a research with the help of ten volunteers. There are two parts in this research. One of which we used textbook as teaching material, the others we used sitcom instead.

The former one includes three steps.

First, we let the students to read the specific paragraph of the textbook, and then ask them what was story about.

Second, we gave them the test that we've prepared before the class, asked them to write their answers of each question.

Third, we asked the students to read the paragraph by themselves, and then we played the CD of the textbook that included the paragraph, and asked students to read after the radio.

The latter one has four steps.

First, we showed a short film from F.R.I.E.N.D and turned the volume down, then asked the students what was happening in the scene.

Second, we gave them the same test that was used in the first research and also asked them to write down the answer of each question.

Third, we turned the volume on and gave them the lines of the film and mark the part where canned laughter appeared, then asked them to discuss why the canned laughter appeared.

The last, we asked them to mark the lines which they felt interested in, then made them copy the way those actors/actress did (reactions).

In the first research, eight of them were able to read the paragraph; half the students can write down the answers correctly; six of the students were able to read the paragraph fluently after listening to the radio.

In the second research, six of the students can explain what was happening in the sitcom; seven of them can write down the answers correctly; 6 of the students were able to mark the part where canned laughter appeared and explain why; and explain why; all of the students can copy the reactions of the actors/actresses while saying the line.

Research Result

Compared with the two results that we get from these two researches, most of the students can simply tell the story of both sitcom and textbook. But when it comes to the reading test, it is obvious that the students using textbook as teaching material are weaker than those using sitcom as teaching materials. There are a few differences remain in the writing test between the two different teaching materials. With analyzing the results above, we can learn that whether using sitcom or textbook, most students can get the main information of the contents easily. Also, three fifth of the students can explain why the laughter appears, which means some of the students cannot understand the funny things in the sitcoms(*Friends*) due to the culture differences. However, in a bigger picture, using sitcom as teaching materials shows more advantages than using textbook.

Research Theory

Sitcoms provide the best conditions for pragmatic language learning and the best teaching materials. Like dramas and soap operas, and unlike

most textbooks, television sitcoms offer models that are rich, varied, and contextualized. Sitcoms present many models of appropriate pragmatic language use among various characters of differing status, familiarity, gender, and in varied settings, such as at work, at home, in public places, and at formal gatherings. Although some speech routines may be expedited, most reflect normal usage. In this way, they provide better input about pragmatic language use than game shows, news shows, advertisements, and talk shows, where language use may be constrained or only suitable for limited contexts. Sitcoms also portray real-life violations of pragmatic norms and their consequences (Washburn 22, 2001).

Sitcom also relieves the teacher's need to explain the meaning of the word to the students, and does not have to be afraid to explain the meaning of the mistake. For the students, only the teacher verbally said that it is also boring, and the method of directly watching the film allows the students to understand what he meant, the teacher only needs to complement it, or use other sentences to give examples.

Students can also learn the emotional changes and tone fluctuations while imitating the characters in the play. It is also a good opportunity for them to practice their mouths. Compared with the direct use of textbooks, the opportunity to practice speaking is much more. In the listening part, you can also get the opportunity to practice, and the pronunciation will be more accurate.

Touchstone and American TV series have different influence on student study. University is the last springboard before students really enter society. The purpose of university English teaching is not only coping with examinations but also in order to enable the students to apply what they have learned independently in daily life. Therefore, to improve students' mastery of English is one of the main considerations of compiling university textbooks. However, as far as the contents of university education courses in Taiwan, it is rare to use American TV series as the main teaching content of students' textbooks. In other words, the impact of American TV series towards student study in present Taiwan university education is worth researching.

Learning Sheet

Part 1 (Turn the volume down and guess what is going on.)

Ask the students what is going on in the scene. (No right answer.)

Part 2 (Show them the video again and finish some questions.)

Why did Monica drink? (C)

(A) Because she was too happy to see her boyfriend.

(B) Because she thinks her boyfriend is handsome.

(C) Because she was upset about turning 30.

What was everyone's reaction after Monica passed out? (B)

(A) They are all laughing.

(B) They are all shocked.

(C) They feel angry for what Monica said.

Who said the following line in the film? (B)

“Speech! Speech! Let's hear from the birthday girl! Huh?”

(A) Monica

(B) Phoebe

(C) Chandler

Part 3 (Find out where appeared canned laughter and discuss why)

In this part we will prepare transcript for the students, and ask them to draw under the line where did the canned laughter appear and discuss why with teacher and students.

Part 4 (Repeat the lines after Teacher)

Ask students to choose some lines which are most memorable to them, and lead them speaking.

Chapter Three: Comparison

Learning Efficiency

English Textbook (*Touchstone*): According to the different learning targets, this textbook divides learning tasks into different units. There is little correlation between the content of units. Each unit takes about one week to learn. Hence, when students lack associative content in the learning process, they will forget what they learned in the last unit after learning a new unit content, which would greatly reduce the learning efficiency. The rate of student review after class is relatively low. According to the Ebbinghaus forgetting curve, “the past laws revealed by the Ebbinghaus forgetting curve are obvious, that is the retention rate of memory decreases with time” (Liu, 2009, p. 164). Students' actual mastery degree of textbook content will continually decrease as time goes on.

American TV series: For freshmen, the content of American TV series is undoubtedly very novel for them who have just experienced high school education. High school education is to cope with the examination, so the aim of high school textbooks is how to lead students to get a desired grade in the exam. But it doesn't focus on how to arouse student's interest in English learning. Adding the content of American TV series into university textbooks is to make up for this defect and it is suitable for both studious and lazy students. There is a research have shown that most students really can concentrate their attention about 10-15 minutes in a 45-minute class (Wu, 18, 1993). Nevertheless, this issue can be perfectly solved by American TV series. Although the story of each episode is independent, the characters and their relationships in each episode are immobile. Due to the connection and development of the storyline, some details that happened in the previous episodes make the foreshadowing for the later stories, which can not only let the students review the content of the previous lesson but also enhance the students' attention. In the spare time, the students' curiosity about the next plot moves them to take the initiative to search for

information related to the storyline. These are all ways to enhance students' learning efficiency.

Practical Application

English Textbook (*Touchstone*): First of all, most of the characters in the textbook are used as decoration, so there is no social relationship between the characters, and the conversations between the characters are quite brief and not in line with real life. It will cause that students lack reference material when they try to practice oral dialogues in different situations. Moreover, the book description of foreign culture only stays on the surface. For example, we only learn festivals which are the representative of foreign cultures from textbooks. But little is known about the process of celebrating the festival by foreigners or the different customs and taboos of celebrating the same festival in the different place. It will cause unnecessary misunderstandings when students refer to this topic in conversation with foreigners. If students have plans to study or live abroad in the future, they need to learn to understand the difference of daily life between abroad and home. For example, in the United States, you can get a driver's license when you are only 16 years old, but you can't drink until you're 21. In addition, the knowledge is updated rapidly in today's society, but textbooks are limited and the content of textbooks is impossible to refer to the current news. Students should not build a car behind closed doors and they also need to get such the latest information from textbooks to broaden their horizons.

American TV series: Due to the cultural differences between Taiwan and the Western countries, English learners may not be able to achieve high-quality communication even if they can master the English language in certain scenes. For example, "you are welcome" is familiar to students. Nevertheless, it is embarrassed for Americans to respond with such an expression when someone says "thank you". The suitable response is "No biggie" or "Oh, it is nothing". The inappropriate answers in this example indicate that the speaker's language competence is not questionable, but his pragmatic competence is deficient. The American TV series itself is an

artistic expression of daily life and traditional culture. According to the content of American TV series, the dialogues we learned is very practical in daily communication. When English learners watch American TV series, they would pay more attention to how the people in the drama express themselves in the scenes than the language itself. The plot of daily life in the American TV series is also a significant way to understand the foreign culture. “American TV series often combine hot topics and events to win higher audience rating and attention. For example, *The Good Wife* obviously alludes to Hillary Clinton and *Desperate Housewives* involves changes in people’s lifestyle and attitudes during the financial crisis” (Chen, 2009, p. 114).

Values

English Textbook (*Touchstone*): The common fault of all Taiwanese textbooks is that it focuses on knowledge education and neglect the cultivation of student values. For example, in the case of homosexuality, there are still many students who are educated or influenced to consider that homosexuals are alien even filthy. There is also an opinion of male superiority and female inferiority in traditional concepts. However, in today's society, these traditional concepts are negated.

American TV series: For the moment, the values of American society are open and worth learning. They reveal many correct views about these social problems in the TV play series. Especially the attention to the feminist consciousness can stimulate some girls to control their own destiny and let boys learn to respect girls. Students can subtly change or re-establish their own values in the process of learning through courses containing American TV series. Building a correct world overlook is more important than merely learning a foreign language.

Formal and informal

Formal English is rigorous. It expresses a non-personal relationship between the author and the reader. It does not use other non-verbal methods such as facial expressions, gestures, etc. to accurately express ideas.

Informal English, it is also known as oral English. Its characteristic is that the sentence structure is simple. It reflects between the speaker and the listener to establish an easygoing, relaxed, intimate relationship.

In some cases, using a language that is too formal or too formal will leave a bad impression on others. It is generally determined by the communication occasion. Formal English is commonly used in textbooks, official reports, academic articles, essays, business letters, agreements, and official lectures; informal English is generally used for chats between acquaintances or online chat. (Van Octave, 1982, p. 280)

Touchstone

Advantages: Textbooks are usually written in formal English. Sentence dialogues in textbooks are generally longer and more formal and strictly follow grammar rules. So we rarely see informal English terms in textbooks.

Disadvantages: Even if you learn formal and grammatical and enough vocabulary from textbooks, it is a bit difficult to fully understand, because there are often a lot of slang and idioms in movies and TV series, while slang and idioms are informal English.

Alicia : It's Mom's birthday on the first. Remember? She's going to be 50! Dave : Oh, that's right. What are you going to get her?

Alicia : I'm going to buy her something special, like a necklace. Then it's Mom and Dad's anniversary on the tenth.

Dave : Right. We usually give them something.

Alicia : We? You mean, / do! Let's, um, send them some flowers.

Dave : OK. Then it's my birthday on the twenty-third.

Alicia : Yeah, I know. I'm going to get you the same thing you got me – nothing! P.56

Friends

Advantages: The grammar requirements are not as strict as the formal English requirements. In daily life, people demand efficiency and speed. From the film, we can observe that it uses words freely and the sentence structure is simple. Informal English creates an easy-going, intimate, intimate relationship between the speaker and the listener.

Disadvantages: Most of the dialogues in the film are informal English. Generally speaking, they are mostly used for chatting or online chat between acquaintances. there will be some rude words. The content of the conversation is not filtered like the contents of the textbook.

Phoebe: Oh hey you guys, I couldn't get a reservation for the night of my birthday, so we have to do dinner Thursday night instead.

Joey: Thursday? But that's Halloween.

Phoebe: So?

Joey: So spooky, that's all.

Ross: So, so, is Mike coming to dinner?

Phoebe: No! It's my first birthday with a boyfriend, and he has to work. Ugh, I get mad at him, but I think it's a little too soon to show my true colors.

Rachel: Phobes, I would make a reservation for five, because one of us has to stay home and watch Emma. (To Ross) Which one of us should go to dinner?

Phoebe: Oh, Rachel! (As in "Rachel should go!")

Ross: Actually, um, I was thinking maybe both of us could go.

Phoebe: Oh, yay! (Less than enthusiastic.)

Ross: Thanks, I'll put a lot of extra thought into your gift. (Season 9 Episode 5)

Vocabulary Learning Effect

In the late 1970s, vocabulary teaching became more and more important. The meaning and vocabulary of vocabulary were used in teaching materials. Students became the center of teaching, and vocabulary

was regarded as communication ability. Specific students should be selectively taught vocabulary that is useful to them. The vocabulary is an ability to give a large number of vocabularies at the beginning of language learning, and to give a natural language environment, so that students can grasp the meaning of vocabulary more quickly.

It can be seen that students speak English well, and vocabulary plays a very important role. Because the students has more vocabulary, it does not mean that communication skills are strong. How to use vocabulary flexibly is the key to language learning. (Chen, 2001)

Touchstone

Advantages: A large number of topic-related vocabulary lists are listed in the textbooks. The teaching of specific topics is systematic and relevant. Students can increase the memory of the vocabulary by practicing with the classmates and by doing the questions.

Disadvantages: Although there are many pictures and articles on the textbook, for students, it is just a boring text, which is more boring than the film, and students have no way to raise interest. Moreover, when students learn vocabulary from textbooks, it is easy to know how to spell the word but not understand the meaning of the word, which may cause misunderstanding between the speakers.




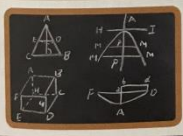


Growing up UNIT 5

3 Building vocabulary

A 2.18 Listen and say the subjects. Circle your three favorite subjects. Tell a partner.

algebra economics band orchestra choir geometry drama physics gymnastics art
 history geography track chemistry dance calculus biology literature computer studies

Word sort **B** Put the subjects above into the categories below. Can you think of other subjects?

<p>social studies</p>  <p>economics</p>	<p>music</p> 	<p>science</p> 
<p>mathematics</p> 	<p>physical education (P.E.)</p> 	<p>other subjects</p> 

(p. 42)

Friends

Advantages: Watching movies to learn English, in addition to learning new vocabulary, learners can understand the meaning of memory vocabulary through actor interpretation. The words in the movie are life-oriented, and students can also learn the culture and related vocabulary of other countries from the film. The students will be impressed, if the story is interesting and vivid, so that students do not easily forget the content or words of the film.

Disadvantages: The content of the film is closer to everyday language but the words you learn will be less formal and may be rude. If you want to learn a specific topic, the film is relatively unsystematic, and the scope of the vocabulary in the film is not as restricted as the textbook, which is very challenging for the English beginners.

Rachel: Ow Ow. Ow Ow Ow Ow. Ow Ow Ow. Ow. Ow. Ow. Ow.

Monica: Hi. Uh, my friend here was taking down our Christmas lights, and and she fell off the balcony and may have broken her foot or or ankle

or something.

Nurse: My god. You still have your Christmas lights up?

Nurse: Fill this out and bring it back to me.

Rachel: Ow Ow Ow. Ow Ow Ow. Ow Ow Ow.

Monica: Okay, ooh, alright. Name, address... Are you currently on any medication?

Rachel: No, oh, wait. Yes, Blister.

Monica: No, in case of emergency call?

Rachel: You.

Monica: Really?

Rachel: Yeah.

Monica: Oh, that is so sweet. Oh gosh, love you. Insurance?

Rachel: Oh, yeah, check it. Definitely, I want some of that.

Monica: you don't have insurance?

Rachel: Why, how much is this going to cost?

Monica: I have no idea, but X-rays alone could be a couple hundred dollars.

Rachel: Well-well-well what are we going to do?

Monica: Well there's not much we can do. (Season 1 Episode 11)

Learning Concentration

According to the focus of the "Family and Childhood" survey, more than 90% of primary and secondary school teachers believe that students lack concentration, and "I don't understand the content", "The class can't attract students", "The class content is too simple" is what teachers think the three main reasons why students are not focused.

The International Children's Education Association has found in many studies that teachers can create a learning environment and atmosphere that is free of fear and stress, and allow children to experience active and meaningful learning, and provide students with appropriate challenges and accurate, immediate feedback. These are the keys to finding the focus of students (Lin, 2008).


Touchstone

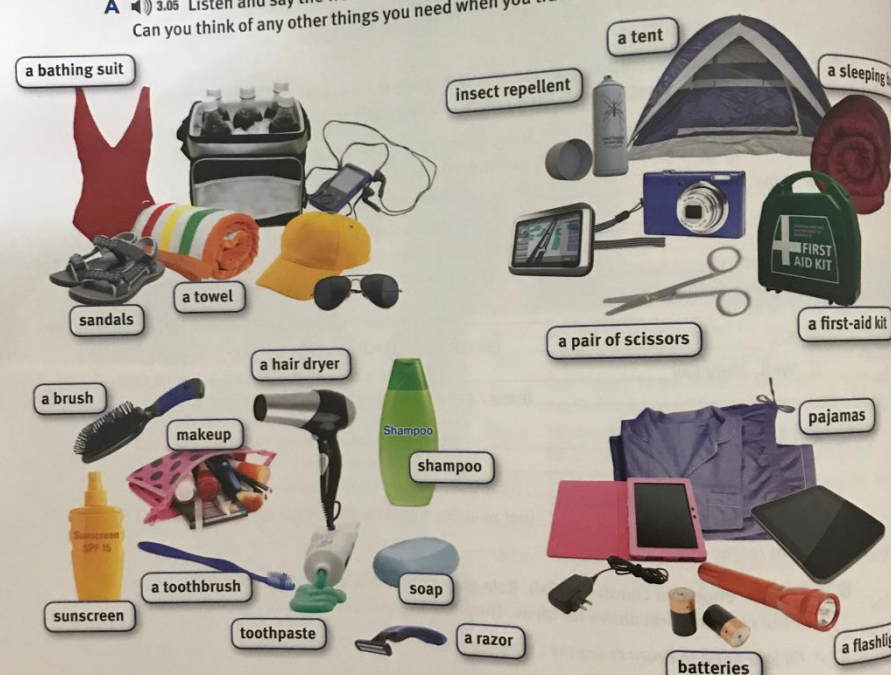
Advantages: From the content of textbooks, it is systematically organized, and systematic learning allows students to quickly find learning objects.

Disadvantages: From Touchstone, there are a lot of exercises for textbooks. Although it is simple for college students, it is easy to cause students' stress. The content of the text is boring and cannot attract students' interest and concentration.

Lesson B **Things to remember**

1 Building vocabulary

A  3.05 Listen and say the words. What else do you see in the picture? Make a list. Can you think of any other things you need when you travel? Compare with a partner.



(68)

Friends

Advantages: The humorous content of the film can make the learners remember deeply, in addition to greatly improving their interest in learning English; they can also receive listening training. The witty opening is easy to attract the attention of the learners, and the wide range of the plots will make the words more difficult. Most of the content of the plot is likely to happen in reality, which is a good way for English learners to learn and attract students' attention.

Disadvantages: Staring at the screen for a long time, in addition to poor eyesight, may also be addictive because of the attraction of the plot.

Woman: It's okay, it's okay, I'm here, and I'm here. Sorry I'm late, okay,

here I am. Who's the new tense girl?

Teacher: She's your partner.

Woman: Hi. I'm Monica.

Monica: Oh. Monica! ...Hi. I'm Mo- ...nana.

Woman: (Fake Monica) Montana?

Monica: Yeah. It's Dutch.

Fake Monica: You're kidding! I-I spent three years in Amsterdam. (Asks her something in Dutch)

Monica: Um, Pennsylvania Dutch.

Teacher: And we're dancing. A-five, six, seven, and eight...

Fake Monica: Oh, by the way, tomorrow we're auditioning for a Broadway show.

Monica: 'Souse me?

Fake Monica: There's an open call for Cats. I'm thinking we go down there, sing Memories and make complete fools of ourselves. Wada say?

Monica: Nonononono. Think who you're dealing with here. I mean, I'm not like you. I-I can't even stand in front of a tap class.

Fake Monica: Well, that's just probably 'cause of your Amish background.

Monica: What?

Fake Monica: Well, you're Pennsylvania Dutch, right?

Monica: Right. Till I bought a blow dryer, then I was shunned.

Fake Monica: I-I used to be just like you. And then one day I saw a movie that changed my life. Did you ever see Dead Poets' Society?

Monica: Uh-huh.

Fake Monica: I thought that movie was so incredibly... boring. I mean that thing at the end where the kid kills himself because he can't be in the play? What was that?! It's like, kid, wait a year, leave home, do some community theatre. I walked out of there and I thought, 'Now, that's two hours of my life that I'm never getting back.' And that thought scared me more than all the other crap I was afraid to do.

Monica: Wow. Then I would definitely not recommend Mrs. Doubtfire. (Season 1 Episode 21)

Humor

Humor is an important skill for teachers. If teachers can use humor to teach, it will enhance students' learning and reduce anxiety (Chang, 2009, p. 30). Humor definition: “The ability to find things funny, the way in which people see that some things are funny, or the quality of being funny” (Cambridge Dictionary.org).

Touchstone

Textbooks play a very important role in the process of learning English. Today, the emphasis on respecting multiculturalism, the issue of culture in English textbooks has attracted the attention of many English teachers. In Taiwan, most English teachers agree that culture plays an important role in English teaching (Zhao, 2009).

Advantages: Taiwanese English teachers have long used the textbooks published by the English-speaking countries because they believe that the English used in books written by British and American people is more authentic.

Disadvantages: Although the English textbooks are written by American people, the English teaching place of the content, but because the content of the textbook needs to be presented through words and rigorous grammatical structure, it will make the learners feel that the content of the text is blunt, unnatural, and forced to be accepted perception.

Touchstone, P.76

John	There is so much stuff in here! Are all these things really ours? I mean, whose bathing suit is this? Is it yours or your grandmother's?
Sandra	Hey, it's mine, and I like it.
John	And whose clothes are these?

Sandra	Oh, they're my sister's. She's storing some things here while she's away. The jewelry's hers, too. Ugh, look at these awful earrings. She has such weird taste.
John	But those are yours. I bought them for you!
Sandra	Oh, you did? Sorry. I guess they're not so bad. Is it yours or your grandmother's.
Although this sentence is a joke, it is not interesting	

Friends

Advantages: The album has the characteristics of audiovisual and use. Appropriate use of American albums in English teaching can create a real language environment for students to learn and hear in a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere.

In the humorous plot of the play, people found the comedy "Friends" very interesting. Compare to the textbooks, "Friends" is more close to us lives when students enjoy the humorous plot, they don't even realize they are learning American culture.

Friends, S4E24

Chandler and Joey's, Joey and Chandler are getting ready for the flight to London and Monica comes running in.

Monica: Guys, hurry up! The flight leaves in four hours! It could take time to get a taxi! There could be traffic! The plane could leave early! When we get to London, there could be a line at customs! Come on!! (She runs back to her apartment.)

Monica: Yep! You got the tickets?

Ross: Oh! Got em right here,(Pats his coat pocket) check!

[Cut to the guys' apartment.]

Joey: It's all London, baby! Here we go.

(He takes a picture of a less than enthused Chandler and starts towards the girls' apartment.)

Chandler: You got your passport?

Joey: Yeah, in my third drawer on my dresser. You don't want to lose that.

(Chandler glares at him. At first, Joey doesn't know why it takes him a little bit to figure it out.)

Joey: Ohh!! (Runs to his room.)

Chandler: There it is.

Disadvantages: Taiwanese students often do not understand the humor of foreigners and can't read the contents of the album. However, through teacher introduction and explanation and review, it is a problem that can be overcome.

Culture

Cultural definition: "The way of life, especially the general customs and beliefs, of a particular group of people at a particular time" (Cambridge Dictionary.org).

Touchstone

Advantages: When English has developed into an international communication tool, multiculturalism has become an important indicator for assessing the applicability of English textbook content. In today's internationalization, in addition to the ability to communicate with international languages-English, it is also necessary to develop cross-cultural communication skills in order to face the current cross-cultural situations (such as business trips, tourism, educational exchanges, etc.).

Disadvantages: The barriers to foreign language teaching from the perspective of cross-cultural communication are first manifested in the acceptance psychology of learners. This can be explained as the phenomenon of “cultural shock” (Sun Wei.116.2011).

Cultural Shock refers to the transition from one culture to another in cross-cultural communication. “Because you lose your familiar social communication signals or symbols, you are not familiar with each other’s social symbols, but psychologically. Produce deep anxiety disorder” Cultural shock is a common phenomenon in cross-cultural communication.

Touchstone, p. 36

Word sort **A** What do people do on these special days? Find two expressions from the box for each event. What else do people do? Add ideas.

blow out candles on a cake
exchange rings
give someone chocolates
get a degree or diploma

go out for a romantic dinner
go to see fireworks
go trick-or-treating
have a reception

✓ shout “Happy New Year”
sing “Happy Birthday”
wear a cap and gown
wear a costume

<p>1</p>  <p>New Year's Eve <i>shout "Happy New Year"</i> _____ _____</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Valentine's Day _____ _____ _____</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>birthday _____ _____ _____</p>
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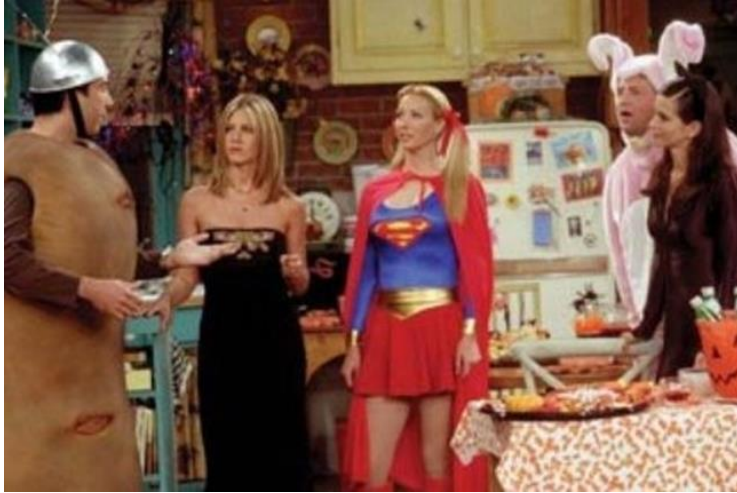
The way in which the learning culture is presented in the textbook is to give the learner a holiday, and then what happens to the festival. This kind of learning style will make students unable to experience and be bored and have the feeling of being forced to recognize the facts.

Friends

Advantages: The use of films that are of interest to students is valuable in their use in teaching to motivate students to acquire cultural knowledge. (Good, 2006, p. 167). Utilizing the use of American album teaching in the classroom, by playing American albums, combining American album content with college English textbooks, infiltrating Western culture, stimulating students' interest in learning, improving students' learning motivation, and improving students' English listening and speaking. The ability to make students' understanding of true American culture will also increase.

Disadvantages: Teachers must find the corresponding segments based on the student's learning theme. Therefore, the importance of the choice and timing of the film in the teaching, the teacher also needs to pay attention to the selection and editing of the album, the organizational design, and arrangement of the classroom teaching.

Friends Halloween



Friend Thanksgiving



Friends Christmas



English application

In recent years, schools have used textbooks as the basis for a class to cultivate and improve students' English audio-visual comprehension and verbal ability. This is difficult to achieve the training objectives set by the syllabus for the course (Lei, 2006, p.147). In the teaching process, some English films were used as the teaching materials of the course, and related exercises were set up. The results showed that the students' visual and listening ability was greatly enhanced and the teaching effect was good.

Touchstone

Advantages: Teachers use textbooks and spend a lot of time on textbooks because textbooks present organized teaching content and teaching activities that allow teachers to clearly teach and teach (Hung, 2003, p. 177). In addition, textbooks are rich in information that can help students (1) read more, (2) collect information to construct concepts or general principles, (3) study pictures, maps and diagrams, and (4) study summaries of units or classes.

Disadvantages: The results of the US EPIE (Educational Products Information Exchange, 1976) agency show that the content of textbooks is almost equal to the teaching and learning of students. 90% of the time spent in classrooms in the United States is concentrated in the use of textbooks, and two-thirds of them are spent on textbooks, which are the main foundation for teachers to construct teaching plans and classroom teaching.

However, relying solely on textbooks for teaching is not sufficient, because no single textbook can provide all the materials students need to learn, adapt to individual differences, and meet the needs of transient teaching situations (Elliott, 1987, p. 73).

Friends

Advantages: The film assists the teaching of English single words. For English to learn single words for beginners, the use of film matching theory and practice has a learning model, which is aimed at the meaning of words, the meaning of words and images, the usage of words in context and the learning effect of reading tests. Strengthen the identification and meaning of students' words and develop visual literacy skills.

Disadvantages: In learning, learners tend to focus on pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar, it is not difficult to find that listening comprehension is a fear of learners, but we can let learners learn to listen in a relaxed environment through the application of the album friends in teaching.

Conclusion and Suggestion

Conclusion

This paper has argued that the possibility of using sitcoms in English teaching. As we know, English has been the most important language that is used in international communication. The usage of English is quite applicable. Most of the e-mails and addresses in the world are written in English. That is the reason why we should learn English.

Returning to the hypothesis posted at the beginning of this study, it is now possible to state that using sitcoms in English teaching is more effective than using the original textbooks. Although the content of the textbooks is precise and correct, it would still make students bored when they are reading the textbooks. Also, students can easily remember the contents of sitcoms due to the reason that the sitcoms have a complete story line, which is not easy to be confused. The contents of the textbooks are usually inflexible, which is not easy for students to apply them to the real life. As sitcoms, the conversations in them are more versatile and normalized than the textbooks.

Compared with the two results that we get from these two researches, most of the students can simply tell the story of both sitcom and textbook. But when it comes to reading test, it is obvious that the students using textbook as teaching material are weaker than those using sitcom as teaching materials. There are a few differences remain in writing test between the two different teaching materials. With analyzing the results above, we can learn that whether using sitcom or textbook, most students can get the main information of the contents easily. However, in a bigger picture, using sitcom as teaching materials shows more advantages than using textbook.

Compared with traditional English teaching with textbooks, sitcoms adopt more practical and suitable phrases and conversations in the contents. It also concludes the contents that can motivate students to learn due to the fascinating stories.

Textbook (*Touchstone*)

Advantages: Textbooks are usually written in formal English. Sentence dialogues in textbooks are generally longer and more formal and strictly follow

grammar rules. So we rarely see informal English terms in textbooks. A large number of topic-related vocabulary lists are listed in the textbooks. The teaching of specific topics is systematic and relevant. Students can increase the memory of the vocabulary by practicing with the classmates and by doing the questions. From the content of textbooks, it is systematically organized, and systematic learning allows students to quickly find learning objects.

Disadvantages: Even if you learn formal and grammatical and enough vocabulary from textbooks, it is a bit difficult to fully understand, because there are often a lot of slang and idioms in movies and TV series, while slang and idioms are informal English. Although there are many pictures and articles on the textbook, for students, it is just a boring text, which is more boring than the film, and students have no way to raise interest. Moreover, when students learn vocabulary from textbooks, it is easy to know how to spell the word but not understand the meaning of the word, which may cause misunderstanding between the speakers. From Touchstone, there are a lot of exercises for textbooks. Although it is simple for college students, it is easy to cause students' stress. The content of the text is boring and cannot attract students' interest and concentration.

Sitcom (*Friends*)

Advantages: The grammar requirements are not as strict as the formal English requirements. In daily life, people demand efficiency and speed. From the film, we can observe that it uses words freely and the sentence structure is simple. Informal English creates an easy-going, intimate, intimate relationship between the speaker and the listener.

Watching movies to learn English, in addition to learning new vocabulary, learners can understand the meaning of memory vocabulary through actor interpretation. The words in the movie are life-oriented, and students can also learn the culture and related vocabulary of other countries from the film. The students will be impressed, if the story is interesting and vivid, so that students do not easily forget the content or words of the film.

The humorous content of the film can make the learners remember deeply, in addition to greatly improving their interest in learning English; they can also receive listening training. The witty opening is easy to attract the attention of the learners, and the wide range of the plots will make the words more difficult. Most

of the content of the plot is likely to happen in reality, which is a good way for English learners to learn and attract students' attention.

Disadvantages: Most of the dialogues in the film are informal English. Generally speaking, they are mostly used for chatting or online chat between acquaintances. there will be some rude words. The content of the conversation is not filtered like the contents of the textbook.

The content of the film is closer to everyday language but the words you learn will be less formal and may be rude. If you want to learn a specific topic, the film is relatively unsystematic, and the scope of the vocabulary in the film is not as restricted as the textbook, which is very challenging for the English beginners. Staring at the screen for a long time, in addition to poor eyesight, may also be addictive because of the attraction of the plot.

Suggestion

Theoretically, it would be beneficial to replicate the study on reforming the textbooks by combining with sitcoms like Friends. There is a theory that what if the government or school can reform the textbooks by replacing the original contents of the textbooks with sitcoms. With the advantages of sitcoms, teachers can help students learn English more easily and effectively. Also, the situation about the inappropriate contents is solvable. Teachers can simply introduce the background of the sitcoms or choose the sitcoms wisely to avoid this problem.

In short, using sitcom in English teaching is more flexible, and has a positive effect on students. Textbook also has its value. In basic English grammar teaching, textbooks may have a more specific explanation for some grammar questions. However, sitcoms may be able to increase the study efficiency of students when they are learning English. Besides, the contents of sitcoms are often suitable to be used as teaching materials. Furthermore, it can help students to build their values.

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