

英语故事 精粹

帅政·编译
Robert Irving Southard·审校
(美、加双国籍)

Selections from Humorous English Stories



金盾出版社
JINDUN CHUBANSHE

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内 容 提 要

本书精选原版英文幽默故事 100 余篇。英文地道,翻译忠实原文,突出“笑点”。另外,英文故事后附有“英语拾零”,旨在丰富读者的英语知识。本书适合广大读者阅读。

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前言

幽默是在碰壁时转出一条路来,在沉闷空气中开一扇窗,是热极时候的一阵风,窘极时候的一个笑容。

由于文化背景不同,东西方幽默往往大易其趣。读幽默故事,领会其诙谐之处,会心一笑,不亦乐乎!开心之余,我们还能了解西方社会之文化,通晓其习俗与人情。

本书从原版英文读物和各大网站精选幽默故事 100 余篇,涉及人生、道德、亲情、友谊等。故事富有哲理,英文地道,翻译忠实原文,读来令人忍俊不禁,不忍释卷。本书还收录“英语拾零”小知识 70 多则,以丰富读者的英语知识。

幽默故事在令人开心一笑的同时,还是读者提高英语阅读能力,扩大词汇量的好帮手。

在本书翻译出版过程中,得到郑志骏、吕库、姜勇、陈锋、赵建英、李平、冯清芳、李凤林、高东、李健等朋友的帮助与鼓励,特此致谢!

愿此书能为广大读者提高英语作出贡献!

译者

编译心语

天生我材必有用，有用之才多历艰。

我生之初，“成分论”乍起，吹皱童年梦呓。耕农田，刨荒地，筑石坝，垒猪舍。日劳作，夜挨批，挑灯读，暗伤悲，跌跌撞撞撑过“阶级斗争”峥嵘岁月。邓公出，明灯举；平野阔，江潮涌；云帆挂，破浪行。先进大学学堂，取文学学士；后入京师学堂，探研国学；再进党校，叩政治，问经济。

天苍苍，野茫茫，居边荒，思庙堂。大同煤矿劳作十有一年矣，当教师，下煤井，咏诗词，梳文篇。曾做工会和共青团工作，又任宣传干事、新闻科长、通讯站长，终调新华社，从新闻“游击队”转为“正规军”。表里山河路，故国尽神游。七年山西新闻风雨，装点出人生关山。政治法律文化教育，生命箩筐里，尽为甘苦桑麻。

入京华，望宫阙；凝神思，心灿然。旧曲声里找新音。谋营销之策，究传播之道，朝花夕拾，餐露咀英。

话沧桑，笑拈花，说禅悟。人生世事一盘棋，谈艺论旧尽释然。鸟鸣人语皆有道，禅定万山心自通。般若慧根，破土茁长，心智之光，次第燃亮。

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Many a true word is spoken in jest.

戏言寓真理。

透过幽默,我们可以看到哪些是理性的,哪些是愚蠢的;哪些是重要的,哪些是无足轻重的。它能增强我们的生存感,使我们的心智保持健康。

——卓别林



Very Pleased To Meet You

During World War II, a lot of young women in Britain were in the army. Joan was one of them. She worked in a big camp, and of course met a lot of officers and soldiers.

One evening she met Captain Brown at a dance. He said to her, "I'm going abroad tomorrow, but I'd be very happy if we could write to each other." Joan agreed, and they wrote for several months.

Then his letters stopped, but she received one from another officer, telling her that he had been wounded and was in a certain army hospital in England.

Joan went there and said to the matron, "I've come to visit Captain Brown."

"Only relatives are allowed to visit patients here," the matron said.

"Oh, that's all right," answered Joan. "I'm his sister."

"I'm very pleased to meet you," the matron said, "I'm his mother!"

译文

很高兴见到你

在第二次世界大战中,有许多年轻妇女在军队中服役。琼是其中之一。她在一个大军营中工作,自然能遇到许多军官和士兵。

一天晚上,她在舞会上遇到了布朗上尉。他对她说,“我明天要出国,如果我们能够相互写信,我会很高兴。”琼同意了,此后几个月里他们一直通着信。

后来,他再没有来信。她却收到了另一个军官的信,告诉她,布朗上尉受伤了,住在英格兰的某个部队医院里。

琼来到医院,她对护士长说,“我是来探望布朗上尉的。”

“这里只有亲属可以探望病人。”护士长说。

“噢,是的,”琼说,“我是他妹妹。”

“很高兴见到你,”护士长说,“我是他母亲。”

英语拾零

If you lie down with dogs, you will get up with fleas.

这是一句很经典的谚语,也就是中文里说的“近朱者赤,近墨者黑”。在这条英语谚语中体现出来的只是“近墨者黑”的一面。虽然中文里还有成语“出淤泥而不染”一说,但环境对人的影响仍然不可小觑。



Goethe's Tolerance

Goethe was once strolling on a narrow path in a park in Weimar. As luck would have it, he met with a critic who was hostile to him. Both of them stopped, staring at each other. Then the critic said, "I'll never make way for a fool." "But I will," with that Goethe retreated aside.



Words and Phrases

tolerance *n.* 容忍, 忍耐

stroll *v.* 闲逛, 溜达; 散步于

retreat *v.* 后撤, 后退

译文

歌德的容忍

一次,歌德正在魏玛一个公园里一条狭窄小道上散步。碰巧他遇见一个对他怀有敌意的评论家。两人都停了下来,相互对视。评论家说道:“我从来不给傻瓜让路。”“可我给。”说完歌德退到了一边。

英语拾零

“灌水”和“潜水”(网络新词)

论坛是网络交际的重要载体,在这里创造出来的网络用语自然最多,最常见的非“灌水”和“潜水”莫属。

中文里的“灌水”一词形象生动,一些人为了获得积分在论坛里反复留言,回帖时只是简单地表示“同意”、“支持”,内容与主题无关,这种现象在英语中叫 bump,它在论坛里是“顶”的意思。

“潜水”指在论坛、聊天室等只浏览不发言的行为,这样的人好似“潜水员”,永远不浮出水面。“潜水”在英语中的对应词是 lurk。



Roses For My Wife

On the way home one night, I spotted some fresh-cut roses outside a florist's shop. After selecting eleven of them and entering the shop, I was greeted by a young saleswoman.

"Are these for your wife, sir?" she asked.

"Yes," I said.

"For her birthday?" she asked again.

"No," I replied.

"For your anniversary?"

"No," I said again.

As I pocketed my change and headed toward the door, the young woman called out, "I hope she forgives you."



Words and Phrases

spot *v.* 发现

anniversary *n.* 周年纪念日, 周年纪念

a florist's shop 花店

译文

给妻子的玫瑰

一天晚上回家的路上,我看到一家花店外面有一些刚剪下来的玫瑰。我挑了11朵,走进店里,一个年轻的女售货员跟我打招呼。

“先生,这些是送给你妻子的吗?”她问道。

“是的,”我说。

“为了她的生日?”她又问。

“不是,”我回答。

“为了你们的结婚纪念日?”

“不是,”我又答道。

当我将找回的零钱装进口袋,朝门口走去时,那年轻的女士冲我说:“希望她能原谅你。”

英语拾零

One swallow does not make a summer.

swallow 指燕子。西方谚语说,一只燕子飞来不能代表夏天的来临。而中国成语却说,一叶知秋。两种说法各有其智慧。“One swallow does not make a summer.”强调的是要区别一般与特殊的辩证哲理;而“一叶知秋”体现的则是从细微的端倪窥见总体趋势的睿智。



A Nail Or A Fly?

An old gentleman whose eyesight was failing came to stay in a hotel with a bottle of wine in each hand. On the wall there was a fly which he took for a nail. So the moment he hung one of them on, the bottle fell broken and the wine spilt all over the floor. When a waitress discovered what had happened, she showed deep sympathy for him and decided to do him a favour.

So the next morning when he was out taking a walk in the garden, she hammered a nail exactly where the fly had stayed.

Now the old man entered his room. The smell of the spilt wine reminded him of the accident. When he looked up at the wall, he found the fly was there again! He walked to it carefully and slapped it with all his strength. On hearing a loud cry, the kind-hearted waitress rushed in. To her great surprise, the poor old man was there sitting on the floor, his teeth clenched and his right hand bleeding!