



英语笑林

ENGLISH JOKES

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前 言

语言是人类交际的工具,英语也不例外。语言作为交际工具来掌握,就要做到听得懂、说得上、读得快、写得出。听和读是语言的输入,通过耳朵听进去、听懂,通过眼睛看进去、理解。说和写是语言的输出,用嘴说出来,用手写出来,让别人听懂、读懂。这样,语言才能起到交际的作用。要掌握英语,只有大量的输入(听和读),才能保证较强、较正确的输出(说和写)。只有你的头脑里有了许多英语语句,并能用它们来思维,这样,才算掌握了英语。

阅读能力也是交际能力,阅读理解能力是综合运用语言、进行书面交际,从而独立获取信息的能力。想一想,我们的汉语能力和水平是怎样培养和提高的?我们几乎每天都阅读汉语:看报纸书刊、各种文件、文学作品,等等,通过不断接触汉语的字词句,自然就习惯、吸收、丰富了自己的汉语词句,并用汉语思维,能自然、自如、自信地运用汉语。由于大量的阅读(输入),保证了说、写能力(输出)的不断巩固、提高。如果我们学英语能借鉴学汉语的规律和方法,必然轻松愉快、事半功倍。

我们要争取每天阅读点英语的东西,读适合自己的英语水平材料,并养成习惯。要让自己不断接触已学过的英语词句。当这些英语在另一种场合或不同的上下文中出现时,

我们会感到既亲切又新鲜有趣,阅读理解了,也有助于记忆。不同的英语材料读得越多,英语词语也记忆得越多越牢。不必死记硬背,自己的英语词汇会越来越丰富,阅读速度会不断提高。

出版这套英语丛书目的即在于此。一般来说,阅读是比較容易培养的一种语言运用能力,也是可以经常进行的语言训练活动,它不受时间、地点的限制,独自一人就可进行。这套书的一个重要特点是不仅让你广泛地阅读,而且教你怎样读,如何学。你不妨从现在开始,读读这套丛书。你可以在课前课后、茶余饭后、空闲时间拿一本看一看。今天读谚语,明天猜谜语,后天讲笑话;今天唱歌,明天吟诗,后天玩游戏;这星期读短剧,下星期看名人轶事……天天换内容,周周变题材,为你开辟一条科学有效的学习英语的道路,这样既引起你的学习兴趣,又培养你的阅读能力,还丰富你的学习生活。愿这套《中学英语学习趣味园》成为你珍爱的书籍!

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读笑话·品妙言·学英语

亲爱的中学生朋友,你是否感到学英语有时很枯燥?的确,总是围绕着那么几篇课文背啊、记啊,怎能不乏味呢?来点调味品吧!这本《英语笑林》能给你的英语学习增添快乐、情趣和成功感。

英语幽默和笑语不但可以增加学英语的乐趣,还有其他的益处呢。首先,可以巩固和扩充你的英语词汇量。事实证明,课外阅读对学习和记忆单词很有帮助,生动有趣的幽默、笑话更能取得好的效果;第二,了解英语国家的文化背景知识。这里选编的都是“原汁原味”的英语少儿笑话,通过这些笑话你可以感受到西方式的幽默情趣,也可了解某些西方生活常识。这些对学好英语语言是大有裨益的;第三,增加英语的语言实践活动。你一般首先得通过“阅读”来欣赏这些笑话,这里不是那种一字一句的分析阅读,而是整体的理解并获得幽默感。此外,你还可能把幽默讲给别人听或是用在班级活动中,这样又锻炼了“听说”能力。这是一种对提高英语水平大有好处的语言实践活动。

应当承认,我们中国人欣赏笑话时有时会有一些障碍。上面谈到幽默和笑话中蕴含着文化习俗,不同文化背景的人有时面对着笑话不知何处可笑、妙从何来,因而影响了对幽默和笑话的欣赏。为此熟悉一下英语笑话的常用手法会有所帮助。下面对本书中英语笑话所采用的手法作一归纳和分析。

1. 一语双关

英语中有许多词一词多义,巧用可生一语双关、一石二鸟

之趣。例如：

Teacher: I asked you to draw a horse and cart. Why have you only drawn the horse?

Jenny: I thought the horse would draw the cart.

老师：我让你画一匹马和一驾车，你为何只画马？

吉尼：我想马会拉（画）车的。

“draw”一词有“画（画）”和“拉（车）”两个意思。这里利用了“draw”的一词多义，起到了一语（词）双关的效果，产生幽默感。

Nurse: You've got no temperature this morning.

Patient: They took it last night.

护士：今早你没烧了。

病人：昨晚她们试过体温了（带走了）。

“took it”即“took the temperature”。“take”既有“量、试（体温）”的意思，又有“拿走、带走”的意思。这里同样是利用了一词多义，产生了一语双关的效果，因而搞笑。

2. 咬文嚼字

“How much for a haircut?” “\$ 3. 50,” said the barber. “And how much for a shave?” “\$ 2, Sir.” “Very well, shave my head.”

“理个头多少钱？” “3.5 美元，”理发员说。“那么刮一下多少钱？” “2 美元，先生。” “不错，那就刮个头吧。”

这里是利用“cut”和“shave”间的细微差别，“斤斤计较”，

取巧逗笑。

Patient: Nurse, please bring me a hot water bottle. My toes are as cold as ice.

Nurse: (insulted) You're asking the wrong nurse. I happen to be the head nurse.

Patient: Okay — would you send in the foot nurse?

病人: 护士, 请给我拿个热水瓶来, 我的脚冷得像冰。

护士: (受辱似的) 你没找对护士。我是护士长(“头儿”护士)。

病人: 那好, 就请你找脚护士来。

英文中“head”有“带头人”“领导”的意思, 在这里“head nurse”是“护士长”之意。这位护士长有点拿架子, 不愿为病人做递热水瓶一类的事, 于是这位病人就咬文嚼字地说: “那么, 请你帮我找‘脚护士(foot nurse)’来。”这对那位“头护士”真是幽默的讽刺。

3. 偷换概念

编造笑话时“偷换概念”也是常见伎俩。请看下面的例子。

“How many cookies can you eat on an empty stomach?” “I don't know.” “One! After that your stomach isn't empty!”

“你空腹(饿着肚子时)能吃多少块饼干?” “我不知道。” “一块! 吃下一块后就不再空腹了!”

“on an empty stomach”本来可一般地理解为“饿着肚子(做某事)”, 可是这里故意偷换概念, 变成“空腹, 胃里没有一

点东西”，造成可乘之机。

Mutt: How did you break your arm?

Jeff: I followed my doctor's prescription.

Mutt: How could you break your arm by doing that?

Jeff: The prescription blew out of the window and I followed it.

莫特：你怎么把胳膊弄折了？

杰夫：我去追赶医生的处方（我是听从医嘱的）

莫特：那怎么会弄断胳膊？

杰夫：处方单被风吹出了窗外，我去追赶。

“follow the doctor's prescription”一般理解为“遵从医嘱”，这里却编造了一个可引起歧义和偷换概念的情形——“追赶（吹走的）处方”，令听者大惑不解，给人以笑料。

4. 巧弄谐音

利用谐音制造妙趣也不失为高招。例如：

Father: Come, Debbie, get out of bed.

Debbie: No!

Father: Don't you “no” me!

Debbie: Of course I know you! You're my dad!

父亲：黛比，快点起床了。

黛比：我不！

父亲：你别对我说“不”！（你怎么不认识我？）

黛比：我怎么会不认得你，你是我爹！

这里是利用“no”和“know”的相同发音制造笑料。又如：

Teacher: Tell me Lucy, what can we use to conduct electricity?

Lucy: Why, er... (wire 电线)

Teacher: Quite right. Now, What is the unit of electric power?

Lucy: What? (Watt 瓦特)

Teacher: Excellent. Right again.

老师：露茜，告诉我，我们用什么来传送电？

露茜：Why, er... (嗯……电线……)

老师：非常正确。那么，什么是计量电力的单位？

露茜：What? (是瓦特。)

老师：棒极了，你又答对了！

露茜的支支吾吾和对提问的不解“Why, er”、“What”正好与“wire(导线)”、“Watt(瓦特)”分别是谐音，结果歪打正着，好不幽默。

5. 机智妙答，以守为攻

西方人常用诙谐与幽默来规避尴尬与正面冲突，可得以守为攻之效，试举二例：

Waiter: Have I kept you waiting long?

Customer: No. But did you know that there are 3479 rose patterns on your wallpaper?

侍者：让您等的时间长了吧？

食客：不长。不过您知道您这房间的墙纸上有 3479 个玫瑰花图案吗？

这位食客的回答显然不是闲聊，而是讽刺，是不露痕迹、机智幽默的批评——墙纸上的图案都数遍了，等的时间好长啊。

A non-swimmer fell into the river and was saved by a passer-by who dived in and pulled him to the bank. "You deserve a reward," he said to his saver. "I will give you five pounds." He pulled a sodden note from his wallet. "Oh dear — I've only got a ten-pound note." "That's all right. Just jump in again." was the reply.

一个不会游泳的人落入河中，一位过路人跳入河水中将他拖上了岸。“你应该得到奖励，”被救者对救他的人说，“我要给你 5 英镑。”他从钱夹抽出一张湿漉漉的钞票。“啊呀，我只有 10 英镑的钞票。”“那没关系，你再跳进去一次吧。”过路人答道。

这位落水者“酬谢”救命之恩似乎很有“分寸”，5 英镑没有，10 英镑难找零，救人者只好让他“再跳进去一次”来“摆平”这件事。还有比这更有力的回敬吗？

6. 蠢举憨态，惟妙惟肖

机敏睿智固然能生幽默，而刻画蠢笨的言语和憨窘的举止也是制造幽默的良方，请看：

Nurse: Wake up! Wake up!

Patient: (startled from sleep) Huh? What's the matter?

Nurse: I forgot to give you your sleeping pills!

护士：醒醒！醒醒！

病人:(从熟睡中惊醒)呵……什么事?

护士:我忘了让你服安眠药!

A man returned to his parked car, opened the door and got inside. Almost immediately he had a gasp of dismay. Reporting to a nearby policeman, he said, "Officer, I've been robbed. Someone's stolen my steering wheel!" "Come now, sir," said the policeman. "You're sitting in the back."

一个男人回到停在一边的车那儿,打开车门钻了进去。就在那一刻他吃惊地倒抽了一口气。他向附近的警察报告说:"长官,我遭劫了!有人偷我的方向盘!" "你看看吧,先生,"警察说道,"你坐在后排上了!"

7. 童稚生趣,调皮出窍

借孩童之口编造稚拙的语言着实可逗人一笑。请看例子:

Mother: How was your first day at school?

Tommy: Okay, but the teacher didn't give me a present.

Mother: Why would she give you a present?

Tommy: Because she said, "Tom, sit there for the present."

母亲:你上学的第一天过得怎样?

汤米:还可以,只是老师没有给我礼物。

母亲:老师为什么要给你礼物呢?

汤米:因为她说:"汤姆,坐在那儿等礼物。"

其实老师的意思是"汤姆,现在坐好"。可是小汤姆不解

其意,以为老师让他等着发礼物呢。他还把自己的失望天真地告诉了妈妈,令人啼笑皆非。

Father: What does the "O" mean on your test paper?

Son: I think it's a moon. The teacher ran out of stars.

父亲:你考卷上的“O”是什么意思?

儿子:我想那是月亮。老师的星星用完了。

调皮的儿子把零分说成是月亮——像星一样是表扬的符号,只是因为星星用完了,老师才给了他月亮。这等调皮之举岂不令人捧腹?

在阅读中,每读一段笑话,不妨想想它属于哪一种手法,可以加深对幽默的理解和玩味。当然许多笑话哪一类也不属于,或许你可自己概括出新的手法呢。运用这些手段的幽默笑话折射出西方的文化、西方人的思维方式和行事态度,这与东方人的思维和行为方式有所不同。阅读时应当注意比较。

另外中学生有限的词汇也会影响理解。为此我们作了必要的注释,提供了参考译文。不过在读注释和译文之前应当尽量试着自己理解和玩味,一般不要先看译文,给自己留下欣赏“原文”英语笑话的机会。每段幽默或笑话一般都列出注有中文意思的生词和短语,可在开始读幽默之前先熟悉一下,以减少阅读时的障碍。但也不是每个生词都注上词义,这些词一般对理解不很重要,不必去细究。幽默或笑话后还设有一定的练习,如回答和思考问题、查找和猜测词义、选择或判断,等等。读完笑话不妨做一下,以帮助理解和加深印象。理解题中的客观题(正误判断、选择等)备有答案,主观题(问答、思考题)则没有。建议找个同伴同时读这本小集子,既可以分享幽默,又可切磋一下文后的练习题。

1. The Football Stadium

—Why is it so breezy in the football stadium?

—Because it was full of fans.

注释

breezy *adj.* 有微风的

stadium *n.* 运动场

be full of... 充满(装满、挤满、坐满等)

能力题

Find out the meaning of the word “fan” in your dictionary. Should it mean “球迷” or “风扇” here, or perhaps should it mean both to be a humor?

译文

1. 足球场

——球场上为什么凉风习习?

——因为这里到处是球迷(风扇)。