



外国笑话与 现代英语短文选读

英 汉 对 照



胡君倩 译注

OVERSEAS JOKES AND PRESENT-DAY ENGLISH PROSE

中国科学技术大学出版社

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前言



《外国笑话与现代英语短文选读》收录的大部分文章曾在《英语世界》杂志上发表过,少数文章在《大学英语》杂志上刊登过。第一部分“外国笑话”,文笔简洁利落,趣味盎然,以期引起读者的学习兴趣。第二部分“现代英语短文选读”,有的是名家名篇,有的是为了题材内容多样化:入选的文章有叙述文、议论文、散文、演讲辞、书信、人物、故事、史地、科普知识等等。文章简练地道、浅显易懂,适合中等英语水平的读者阅读。每篇文章都附有译文和注释。

众所周知,阅读是打好英语学习基础的重要一环。阅读知识性强、费解的各类短文对提高理解力非常重要。因为如果哪个地方不懂,就不得不多查字典,仔细推敲。要是阅读故事、小说,有的地方不懂,甚至一段不懂,整个故事也可能弄清楚。但是阅读知识性的文章,不经过分析句子,推敲上下文就不可能理解全文,这样一来理解力也就自然而然地提高了。

很多中外英语专家都强调学习英语要精读。他们都认为阅读是不可马虎的,不能囫囵吞枣、不求甚解。精读就是要多查字典。这当然很费时间,但时间并不是白费的。这样精读一两句比随便读七八句受益得多。语言学家吕叔湘先生指出:“精熟比丰富更重要。”文坛怪杰辜鸿铭说:“要熟不要快,快而不熟等于没学。”英国作家麦考利有句关于阅读的名言:“A page digested is better than a volume hurriedly read.”即“咀嚼消化了一页书胜过匆忙阅读一卷书。”这句话使很多学习英语者,包括我在内,终生获益匪浅。

胡君倩

2010年2月于北京玉泉路中国科大宿舍



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第一部分 外国笑话

Part One Overseas Jokes



Sandy and Maggie were very keen to go flying, and by dint of¹ ardent persuasion they had at last got their pilot friend George's agreement to take them up. As a last condition, before the flight George imposed absolute silence upon them while they were in the air. "Look," he said, "if you come through the flight without uttering a sound, you can have the trip free of charge², but if you so much as whisper you will have to pay me £5 each." The canny Scots swallowed³ the bait⁴, hook, line and sinker⁵, and soon the plane was taking off⁶.

[2] Up and up they went, and Sandy was greatly thrilled. Then George looped the loop⁷, and Sandy nearly forgot his promise. Rolls, spirals⁸, and side-slips⁹ followed, but still Sandy managed to keep quiet, and eventually George gave up the idea of making him cry out, and turning home, landed the plane.

[3] "Well, how did you like it?" he asked of the Scot, when once again they were on terra firma¹⁰.

[4] "Oh, I thocht¹¹ it was fine," said Sandy, "but you ken¹², I nearly lost the five pound note."

[5] "Did you, indeed?" said George.

[6] "Ay, just the once, the first time you looped," said Sandy, "That was when Maggie fell out¹³."

桑迪和玛吉非常渴望飞行,经过真诚热情地劝说,他们的飞行员朋友乔治终于带他们去飞行了。作为最后的条件,在飞行前乔治要他们在空中时绝对安静。“注意,”他说,“如果你们在整个飞行过程中不出声,你们的飞行可以免费;可是如果你们即使悄声说话,每人也都得付给我 5 英





镑。”两个精明的苏格兰人完全不动声色地接受了乔治的圈套，很快飞机就起飞了。

[2] 他们越飞越高，桑迪异常激动。然后乔治翻跟头飞行，桑迪几乎忘掉自己的承诺。接着是飞机左右摇晃、螺旋式飞行和侧滑。但是桑迪仍然尽量保持沉默，最后乔治放弃了想使他喊叫的想法，飞回家。飞机着陆。

[3] “好啦，你觉得怎么样？”当他们又一次踏上了陆地，他问这位苏格兰人。

[4] “啊，我认为棒极了。”桑迪说，“可是你知道，我差一点丢掉 5 英镑钞票。”

[5] “真的吗？”乔治说。

[6] “是啊，只有一回：在你第一次翻跟头时，”桑迪说，“那是在玛吉争吵时。”



Notes 注释

1. 通过使用……的方法。 2. 免费。 3. 相信；接受。 4. 诱惑；圈套。
5. 完全地。 6. 起飞。 7. 翻跟头飞行。 8. 螺旋式飞行。 9. 侧滑。
10. 陆地。 11. = thought. 12. = know. 13. 争吵。



Percy was visiting ancient Rome. The grandeur of her former state had impressed him beyond words, and as he gazed on the hollow shell of what was once the Forum¹ he felt quite poetic. Then he suddenly remembered that he had not sent the daily postcard which he had promised his beloved wife. So, taking a card from his pocket he wrote: "My Dear, this is a picture of the remains of the Temple of Concord. Today I saw the vast and noble ruin which was once the Forum. There are everywhere signs of the decay which overtook² Rome, and as I see these things I can think of no one but³ you, my dear, only of you!"



珀西正在古罗马旅游。古罗马从前壮丽的景象给他留下的印象是无法用语言表达的。当他凝视着曾经是这座古罗马广场空荡荡的结构时，他感到非常富有诗意。然后他突然想起他还没有把答应每天给心爱的妻子的明信片寄出。于是，他从口袋里掏出一张明信片，写道：“亲爱的，这是一张康科德庙宇遗迹的照片。我今天参观了一度是古罗马广场的庞大而又宏伟的遗址，到处都有发生在古罗马衰退的痕迹。我看到这些情景时，除了你，我谁也没想，亲爱的，我只想到你！”



Notes 注释

1. 古罗马广场。
2. 侵袭，袭击。
3. 除了。





A Nautical¹ Bird 一只随船航过海的鹦鹉



The master of the S. S.² Africa had just come ashore. With him he bore a parrot³ in a wicker cage, which he had brought from West Africa, and intended as a present for his former school companion, who was now vicar⁴ of the parish. He had not gone far before he met his old friend, who was on his way to church, for the morning service. The skipper⁵ duly made his gift, departed, and the vicar, after some hesitation, decided to put the parrot in the vestry⁶ until the service was over.

[2] At eleven o'clock the choir and clergy filed into⁷ church, and the service commenced. Polly⁸ was left alone in the vestry. Everything went well, and eventually the vicar entered the pulpit⁹ to deliver the sermon. "My text today," he said, "is from the Gospel¹⁰ according to St. Mark. It is 'Lord, what shall we do to be saved.'"

[3] Voice from the vestry: "Pump, you lubbers! Pump!"



非洲大轮船主刚刚到达岸上。他带来一只从西非洲买的装在柳条鸟笼里的鹦鹉，打算作为礼物送给以前的同学，他的同学现在是教区牧师。船长没走多远就遇到这位老朋友，他正在往教堂去作早晨礼拜的路上。船长恰当地送上礼物，然后分手。牧师犹豫了一下，决定把鹦鹉放在教堂的法衣室里直到礼拜做完。

[2] 十一点钟教堂的唱诗班和神职人员鱼贯进入教堂，礼拜开始。鹦哥就独自留在法衣室里。一切进展得很顺利，最后牧师进入布道坛去布道。“我今天的经文，”他说，“是根据圣马可福音中的经文。就是‘上帝啊，为了被拯救，我们该怎么办？’”

[3] 从法衣室传出声音：“抽水，你们这群笨蛋！抽水！”



Notes 注释

1. 航海的。 2. = steamship 轮船。 3. 鸚鵡。 4. 教区牧师。 5. 船长。
6. (教堂的)祭衣室,法衣室。 7. 鱼贯而行。 8. 鸚哥(鸚鵡的通称)。
9. 布道坛。 10. 福音书。 11. 抽水(鸚鵡以为船上有水,抽水可挽救生命,它不懂得牧师说的 save 是拯救灵魂。)



A Novice¹ 帮倒忙的生手



Harold had persuaded Freddie, who was somewhat nervous, to go cycling with him on his tandem². After going some distance they came to a stiff climb³, and it was all they could do to reach the top. However, they eventually got there, and then got off to take a rest.

[2] “That was a hard pull⁴.” panted Harold.

[3] “Yes, by Jove!” returned Freddie. “Do you know, I believe that if I hadn’t kept the brake on we should have gone down backwards!”



哈洛德已经说服了弗雷岱和他一起骑双人自行车,而弗雷岱有点紧张。他们骑了一段路,来到一个陡峭的山坡;要到达山顶,他们只能攀登。可是,他们终于到了山顶,然后下车休息。

[2] “爬山真是吃力极了。”哈洛德气喘吁吁地说。

[3] “一点不错,我的老天爷!”弗雷岱回答。“你知道,我相信要不是我一直紧捏着车闸,咱们早就朝后滚下去了!”



Notes 注释

1. 生手。 2. 双人自行车。 3. 陡峭难登的山坡。 4. 费力。

A Question of Proportion 比例问题



My friend Brooks was very fond of chicken pies, and used to frequent¹ the “Good Hope” restaurant, which had a widespread reputation for these delicacies. After some months of regular visits there he became known to the manager, and the two would often converse together. One day the topic turned to the famous pies, and Brooks, who was of an inquisitive nature said: “Tell me, Prosper, — these pies of your’s, — what do you put into them? Are they entirely of chicken?”

[2] “Well, sir,” answered Prosper, “it’s like this. If they were just chicken, and chicken only, we could not make them at a reasonable price², so sometimes we put in some other meat.”

[3] “Oh yes, pork or beef, I suppose?” questioned Brooks.

[4] “Well, sir,” said Prosper with some hesitation, “if you promise to keep what I divulge a secret, I’ll tell you.” Brooks promised, and Prosper continued: “As a matter of fact, sir, owing to the rationing we use horsemeat, — very little, of course, but it’s actually horsemeat.”

[5] “Indeed! But they’re very good pies all the same, one would never have supposed it possible. By the way, what quantities do you use? Or is that a professional secret?”

[6] “Well, sir, I don’t mind telling you, but you must keep it under your hat³. The amounts are about fifty-fifty.”

[7] “Ah, half-and-half,” said Brooks.

[8] “Yes sir, in a way⁴,” returned Prosper, “one horse, one chicken!”

我的朋友布鲁克斯非常爱吃鸡肉馅饼,从前时常光顾“好望”餐馆,这

