

英  
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阅  
读

英 汉 对 照

顾 亚 云 编 著  
大 连 理 工 大 学 出 版 社

英语 *English*

幽默茶座

523

英语情感  
阅 读

# 英语幽默茶座

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大连理工大学出版社

英汉对照

丛书策划:王佳玉

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英语幽默茶座/顾亚云编著. —大连:大连理工大学出版社, 1999. 1

(英语情感阅读)

ISBN 7-5611-1499-0

I. 英… II. 顾… III. 英语-语言读物 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(98)第 20939 号

大连理工大学出版社出版发行

(大连市凌水河 邮政编码 116024)

大连业发印刷厂印刷

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开本: 850 × 1168 毫米 1/32 字数: 238 千字 印张: 10.125

印数: 1 - 6000 册

1999 年 1 月第 1 版

1999 年 1 月第 1 次印刷

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责任编辑: 韩 露

责任校对: 孙 玲

封面设计: 孙宝福

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定价: 10.00 元

# 总 序

年轻的朋友,我们都是幸运的人。跨越世纪是“百年不遇”,跨越千年更是“千载难逢”,我们就是这样的幸运儿。

为了迎接新世纪的挑战,实现走向世界的理想,越来越多的年轻人正在学习外语。但是,真正做到外语学有所成、运用自如的人却并不多。很难设想死啃一种课本的人能把活的语言学到手,很难设想学完就扔的人能永生不忘。

阅读外语书刊是温故知新的必由之路。每天茶余饭后读上几页外语,也许会是无上的乐趣。短小精悍、饶有趣味、实用性强——这是外语阅读材料的必备条件。摆在你面前的这套丛书就是这样的书籍。你会发现外语学习原来是轻松愉快的事情!

汪榕培

1998年11月于大连

# 前 言

什么是“幽默”？

中文的“幽默”一词来源于英语的 Humour，由中国现代幽默大师林语堂所创。各种词典给“幽默”下过各种不同的定义，但是要理解幽默最好还是先来看一看始作俑者林语堂先生的解释。

林语堂在论及这个译名时写道：“Humour 本不可译，惟有译音办法。华语中言滑稽辞字曰滑稽突梯，曰诙谐，曰嘲，曰谑，曰谑浪，曰风，曰讽，曰诮，曰讥，曰奚落，曰调侃，曰取笑，曰开玩笑，曰戏言，曰孟浪，曰荒唐，曰挖苦，曰揶揄，曰俏皮，曰恶作谑，曰旁敲侧击等。然皆或指尖刻，或流于敖诞，未能表现宽宏恬静的‘幽默’意义，犹如中文之‘敷衍’，‘热闹’等字亦不可得西文正当译语。最近者为‘谑而不虐’，盖存忠厚之意。‘幽默’之所以异于滑稽荒诞者：一、在于同情所谑之对象。人有弱点，可以谑浪，己有弱点，亦应解嘲，斯得‘幽默’之真义。若单尖酸刻薄，己非‘幽默’，有何足取？张敞谓夫妇之间有甚于画眉者，汉宣帝，不究其罪，此宣帝之‘幽默’。二、‘幽默’非滑稽荒诞，故作奇语以炫人。乃在作者说者之观点与人不同而已。‘幽默’家视世察物，必先另具只眼，不肯因循，落人巢臼，而后发言立论，自然新颖。以其新颖，人遂觉其

滑稽。若立论本无不同,故为荒唐放诞,在字句上推敲,不足以语‘幽默’。滑稽之中有至理,此语得之。”<sup>①</sup>

林语堂先生在1975年的《八十自叙》一文中再次提到“幽默”一词的意思:“幽默”一词与中国老词儿“滑稽”,两者常有颇多混乱之处。滑稽一词包括低级的笑谈,意思只是指一个人存心想逗笑。我想使幽默一词指的是“亦庄亦谐”,其存心则在于“悲天悯人”。<sup>②</sup>

要达到这样的目标并不容易,并不见得所有的幽默都那么“庄”、都有“悲天悯人”的存心。所谓的“幽默”,至少都包含着滑稽可笑成分,与笑有着密不可分的关系。

《英语幽默茶座》是在《智力趣味幽默》(大连理工大学出版社,1996年)的基础上,扩充修订而成的,增加的新内容将近一半,分为“英语幽默欣赏”和“英语幽默阅读”(英汉对照)两个部分。所收的内容都是短小精悍的 humorous anecdotes。用“小故事”或者“轶事”来表示 anecdotes 其实都不太准确,无非是生活的片断而已;至于什么是 humorous 的范围,更是五花八门、不一而足。希望读者能在消闲的过程中,在微笑的陪伴下增长英语的知识和提高英语的熟练程度。

编者

1998年11月15日

<sup>①</sup> 林语堂:《林语堂名著全集》第十四卷,160页~161页,东北师范大学出版社,1994年

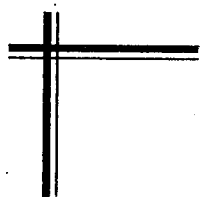
<sup>②</sup> 林语堂:《林语堂名著全集》第十卷,294页,东北师范大学出版社,1994年

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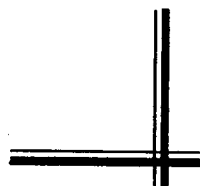
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# 第一部分

## 英语幽默欣赏







**1** THE mayor had officially opened the one-man art show and was browsing along the paintings when he stopped with a start in front of a picture of a woman reclining nude on a couch.

"That's my wife," he cried. "You scoundrel. You have had my wife up here posing nude in your studio."

The artist, a little terrified, said it wasn't the case at all. "I painted it from memory," he said.

◆ *Comprehension Question:*

The artist \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. admitted the fact that the mayor's wife had been nude in his studio.
- B. tried to cover the fact that the mayor's wife had been nude in his studio.
- C. forgot the fact that the mayor's wife had been nude in his studio.

◆ *Answer:* B

注释: 1. one-man art show 个人画展

2. browsing along 随意观看

3. reclining nude on a couch 裸体躺在睡椅上

4. scoundrel 坏蛋, 恶棍



**2** "DID you sell any of your paintings at the art show?"

"No, but I am encouraged," he replied. "Somebody stole one."

◆ *Comprehension Question :*

The man's reply shows that \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. he is proud of his paintings
- B. he is sorry to lose one painting
- C. he is glad to sell one painting

◆ *Answer :* B



**3** SALVADOR Dali was robbed while on a visit to New York, but he managed to get a good look at the offender and was able to provide the police with a rough sketch of the felon.

For the next two weeks New York police searched for a man with a head like a horse, a fried egg on his forehead and a sword in his mouth.

◆ *Comprehension Question :*

The picture that Dali drew shows that he is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. a good painter
- B. an artist
- C. a poor painter

◆ *Answer :* C

注释: 1. offender 罪犯

2. a rough sketch of the felon 粗略素描一张坏蛋的画



4 IT was Friday night and Barbie had just finished preparing the evening meal for her husband John when there was a knock on the door. She opened it and was surprised to see her husband's best mate, Freddie.

"John's scored some overtime," said Fred. "He told me to tell you he won't be home until eleven-thirty."

A long chat on the doorstep resulted in Barbie inviting Freddie inside. "In fact, you might as well eat some of this food I have prepared."

Freddie was in like Elynn. And after the food, and half a bottle of good red, began chatting up Barbie about the good old days when they used to go together, before she was married. In fact, he soon got to the point. "Give us a kiss for old time's sake?" he said.

"No, I'm an honest married woman," she said.

"Okay," said Fred. "Give us a kiss for old time's sake... and twenty dollars." And with that he slammed the note on the table.

Barbie looked at the money. Well, she used to kiss him for nothing once. No harm in a kiss. So she gave him a quick peck and scooped up the cash.

Freddie had another drink and began praising Barbie's figure. "You're still in great shape," he said looking at her blouse. "Give us a quick look... for fifty dollars."

And with that he dropped fifty on the table.

He used to do more than looking once, for nothing, thought Barbie. A quick flash shouldn't hurt anybody. So a quick flash it

was, and again she scooped up the money.

To cut a long story short there was a bit more chit-chat and \$200 dropped on the table, followed by a quick adjournment to the bedroom.

Indeed it was eleven-thirty when John arrived home that night and Barbie got out of bed to make him a cup of tea.

"Did Freddie call round?" he asked.

Barbie nodded.

"Did he bring my pay?"

◆ *Comprehension Question:*

The money that Freddie offered to Barbie is \_\_\_\_\_.

A. stolen from John

B. John's pay

C. Freddie's pay for love

◆ *Answer:* B

注释: 1. scored some overtime 因加班要晚归

2. slammed the note on the table 把钱放在桌上

3. peck 看一下

4. scooped up the cash 抓起钱

5. chit-chat 聊天, 闲谈

6. adjournment 转移

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5 A BLOKE lent me a book on memory training last week.

I want to return it, but I can't remember his name.

◆ Comprehension Question :

Does the book work on the borrower?

- A. Yes.      B. No.      C. A little.

◆ Answer : B

注释 : bloke 人, 家伙

\* \* \*

6 "I READ your new book," said the snobbish critic to the author. "Who wrote it for you?"

"Who read it for you?" he replied.

◆ Comprehension Question :

To the author, the snobbish critic's question is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. a slander against him  
B. a welcome speech  
C. praising

◆ Answer : A

注释 : snobbish critic 势利评论家

\* \* \*

7 THE drunk on the bus told the ticket inspector that he had bought a ticket, but couldn't find it.

"It's okay," said the inspector, "I'm sure you have paid."

"It's not okay at all," insisted the drunk, still searching his pockets. "Without my ticket I don't know where I'm going."

◆ *Comprehension Question:*

The drunk was looking for his ticket because \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the ticket inspector needed it
- B. there was money in his wallet
- C. the ticket will tell him where to get off

◆ *Answer:* C

注释: ticket inspector 查票员

\* \* \*

**8** YOUNG Moishe was learning economics and asked his father about the ethics of business.

"Ethics?" repeated his father. "You ask me about ethics?" Well, my lovely boy, let me put it this way. A lady comes in and buys a garment for \$ 95 and she pays with a \$ 100 note. She is very excited about the garment and as she leaves with the parcel under her arm I notice she has left her \$ 5 change on the counter.

"Now here my son comes in the big question of ethics. Do I tell my partner or not?"

◆ *Comprehension Question:*

Here, in the father's example, the ethics of business means \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the partner should return the \$ 5 change to the lady
- B. the partner should keep the \$ 5 change
- C. the \$ 5 change should belong to the partner of the shop

◆ Answer: A

- 注释: 1. economics 经济学  
2. ethics of business 职业道德  
3. garment 衣服  
4. parcel 小包  
5. partner 伙伴, 合伙者

\* \* \*

**9** TWO Jewish gentlemen were seated together on a plane. They had been in the air for 30 minutes when the younger man asked the other if he had the time.

There was no answer. "Can you tell me the time please?"

Again there was no answer and the younger man detected some kind of deliberate resistance.

The aircraft was on its descent path when the older man quickly looked at his watch and said it was ten past three.

There was silence for a while before the younger man said. "Why didn't you tell me the time earlier?"

"Well, you know what it is like on flights. People get talking to each other. We could become friendly, especially when we are both Jewish. I would be obliged to invite you home. I have a lovely daughter and you are a young man, quite handsome. Romance could blossom and before long you could be asking for her hand in marriage. And to put it bluntly, I don't want a son-in-law who hasn't got a watch."

◆ Comprehension Question:

The older man did not tell the young man the time earlier, because



- A. the young man was a robber
- B. the young man was going to steal his money
- C. he was afraid that his daughter would marry a poor man

◆ Answer: C

注释: 1. Jewish 犹太人

2. detect 觉察, 发现

3. deliberate resistance 故意抗拒

4. on flight 在飞行中

5. be obliged to 施恩于, 乐意

6. Romance could blossom 浪漫恋爱会发展

7. bluntly 直截了当地

\*

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**10** It was three in the morning when a busker began playing his banjo outside the bedroom window of a wealthy tycoon.

Eventually the window was opened. "What do you think you are doing waking me up in the middle of the night?"

"Listen, mate," said the busker. "I don't tell you how to run your business, so don't tell me how to run mine!"

◆ Comprehension Question:

The busker's answer means that \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the wealthy tycoon should run his own business well
- B. the wealthy tycoon should pay him some money
- C. the wealthy tycoon should not interfere in other's business