

SELECT ENGLISH RIDDLES

英语谜语精选

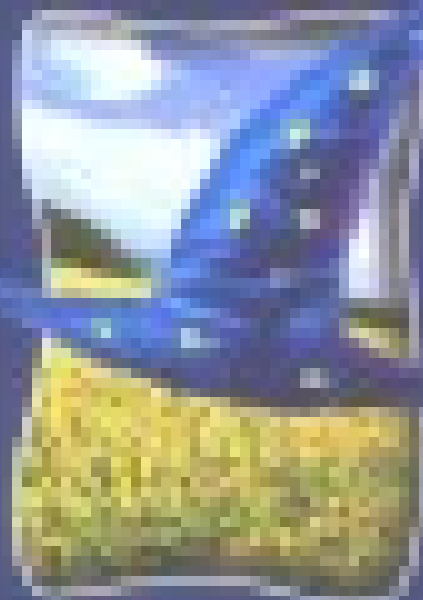


◆ 编者 眉君 之璠



上海外语教育出版社

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前 言

谜语是一种寓文艺于娱乐的文学形式,既饶有趣味,又可以启发心智,增进思考和想像能力。

英语谜语除了上述益处之外,还是学习英语的一种有效的辅助手段。英语学习者可以通过英语谜语在轻松的文娱活动中学到很多有用的词语和各种表达方式,从而掌握英语灵活多变的用法。这正是我们选编本书的目的和进行注释的根据。

本书收集的谜语大致有以下五个特点:

1. 利用同音异义词(Sound-alike words),如: night — knight (骑士); beat — beet (甜菜); week — weak; air — heir (继承人); to — too — two 等。
2. 利用读音相近的词(Almost sound-alike words),如: lion — line; worse — verse (诗行); selfish — sell fish; lettuce (莴苣) — let us 等。
3. 利用同形异义词(Words with more than one meaning),如: date (日期) — date (约会); school (学校) — school (鱼群); hand (手) — hand (钟表的指针); down (向下) — down (鸭绒); fast (快) — fast (斋戒); fair (集市) —

fair (美好的)等。

4. 利用构词成分 (The component parts of a word), 如: timetable — time-table; courtship (求爱; 求婚) — court-ship; mushroom (蘑菇) — mush-room 等。
5. 利用英语的习惯用语、固定词组和搭配等 (Idioms and common sayings), 如: hit the hay (上床睡觉); get into hot water (陷入重重困境); make it hot for sb. (弄得某人日子不好过); let sb. down (使某人失望)等。

英语谜语是讲英语国家的人民从小耳濡目染的一种文艺形式。熟悉这些谜语, 对于了解这些国家人民的风俗习惯、心理气质、特别是幽默俏皮大有帮助。

本书从最近几年美国出版的近百册读物中精选了约860则谜语, 按其题材性质及句型结构分类编排。每则谜语附有谜底。注释部分除注音、释义外, 特别注意帮助读者理解谜语与谜底之间的联系。为了使英语程度稍浅的读者也能阅读本书, 稍稍放宽了注释范围。为了便于读者随意翻阅, 每则谜语的注释尽量各自独立, 不避免少量重复。

本书可以用作大、中学校和英语自学者的补充学习及开展各种英语活动的材料。

编者

2001年3月

略 语 表

- a.* adjective 形容词
ad. adverb 副词
conj. conjunction 连词
int. interjection 感叹词
n. noun 名词
pref. prefix 前缀
prep. preposition 介词
sb. somebody 某人
sth. something 某物;某事
suff. suffix 后缀
v. verb 动词
vi. intransitive verb 不及物动词
vt. transitive verb 及物动词
[复] 复数形式
[口] 口语
[俚] 俚语
[美] 美国英语

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PART ONE

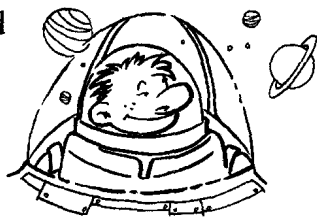
1. SPACE OUT!



What goes up and
counts down?



A rocket.



• count down 倒计时。



When does a rocket
get hungry?



When it's almost launch time.

• launch [ləʊntʃ] *n.* (导弹等)发射; launch time 又与 lunch time (午餐时间)的发音相似。



What does an astronaut do when he gets
angry?



He blasts off.

- astronaut ['æstrənɔ:t] *n.* 宇航员。
- blast off (生气地)走开;发射,起飞。



How do you put a baby astronaut to sleep?



You rock-et.

- 谜底应为 You rock it; 此处 rock 作“轻摇”解。rock it 与 rocket (*v.* 用火箭运载)的读音近似。



What kind of knots are tied in outer space?



Astronauts.

- knot [nɒt] *n.* 结; tie a knot in a rope 在绳子上打个结。knot 与 astronaut 中的 -naut 读音相近。
- outer space 外层空间。



What do you call a crazy spaceman?



An astro-nut.

- crazy ['kreizi] *a.* 疯狂的
- spaceman ['speismən] *n.* 太空人; 宇航员。
- nut [nʌt] *n.* 坚果; 疯子。nut 与 astronaut 中的 -naut

读音相近。astro- *pref.* 星,天体,宇宙。



As an astronaut, what qualities do you look for in a friend?



He should be down to earth.

- quality ['kwɒlɪti] *n.* 品质
- down to earth 认真的,现实的。按字面可理解为“回到地球”。



Why is an astronaut like a football player?



They both make safe touchdowns.

- football 美式橄榄球。
- touchdown 着落;(橄榄球运动中的)攻方持球触地得分。



What did the astronaut cook for lunch?



An unidentified frying object.

- unidentified [ˌʌnaɪ'dentɪfaɪd] *a.* 未辨别的。
- fry [fraɪ] *v.* 油煎。
- object ['ɒbdʒɪkt] *n.* 物体。
- 谜底应为 An unidentified flying object (UFO) (不明

飞行物体)。此处将 flying 改为 frying, 十分幽默。



Why did the astronaut take a mop into space?



To clean up the stardust.

- mop [mɒp] *n.* 拖把。
- stardust ['stɑ:dʌst] *n.* 宇宙尘。



Why did the astronaut take a shovel into space?



To dig a black hole.

- shovel ['ʃʌvl] *n.* 铁锹。
- black hole (太阳的)黑洞。



What does an astronaut shave with?



A laser razor.

- shave [ʃeiv] *v.* 刮(胡须等)。
- laser ['leizə] *n.* 激光。
- razor ['reizə] *n.* 剃刀。



What's an astronaut's favorite fish?

 The starfish.

- starfish ['stɑ:fɪʃ] *n.* 海星。



Why do astronauts worry about their jobs?



Every time they're sent into space, they're fired.

- be fired 被解雇;被发射。



Can you understand astronauts' jokes?



Not a bit. They're over my head.

- over one's head 深奥得难以理解;按字面可理解为“在头的上面”或“在空中”。



Why do astronauts wear bulletproof vests?



To protect themselves from shooting stars.

- bulletproof ['bulitpru:f] *a.* 防弹的。
- vest [vest] *n.* 背心。

- protect [prə'tekt] vt. 保护。
- shooting star 流星。shooting 与 bulletproof 相呼应。



Why did the sheriff put the star in jail?



It was a shooting star.

- sheriff ['ʃerif] n. 县司法长官。
- jail [dʒeɪl] n. 监狱: put sb. in jail 将某人投入监狱。



If an athlete gets athlete's foot, what does an astronaut get?



Missile toe.

- athlete ['æθlɪt] n. 运动员: athlete's foot 脚癣; 香港脚。
- missile ['mɪsaɪl; 'mɪsəl] n. 导弹; missile toe 与用于圣诞节的一种装饰物 mistletoe ['mɪsəltəʊ] 同音, 这种饰物通常挂在门上。



What would an astronaut watch when walking on the outside of his spaceship?



His step.

- spaceship ['speɪsʃɪp] *n.* 宇宙飞船。
- watch one's step 小心谨慎。



How did the astronauts lock the spaceship door?



With a lightning bolt.

- lightning ['laɪtnɪŋ] *n.* 闪电。
- bolt [bəʊlt] *n.* 插销; 雷电。



—Remember, spaceship, when you land on that planet and meet their leader, don't laugh because he's only 12 inches tall.

—How do you know that?



— We've been informed he's a ruler.

- land [lənd] *vi.* 着陆。
- planet ['plænit] *n.* 行星。
- inform [ɪn'fɔ:m] *vt.* 通知。
- ruler ['ru:lə] *n.* 直尺(长 12 英寸); 统治者。



How do you like riding a spaceship?



Oh, I have no room to complain.

- complain [kəm'plein] *v.* 抱怨; (have) no room to complain 棒极了; 此处 room 作“余地”解。



What do you call a spaceship that is always sorry?



An Apollo G.

- Apollo G [ə'pələu dʒi:] 阿波罗 G 号(飞船); 其读音与 apology ([ə'pələdʒi] *n.* 抱歉, 认错)相近。



Why are an astronomer and an evening security guard alike?



Because both of them are watchmen.

- astronomer [ə'strɒnəmə] *n.* 天文学家。
- security [si'kjʊəriti] *n.* 安全; 治安: an evening security guard 夜间警卫人员。
- alike [ə'laɪk] *a.* 相像的。
- watchman ['wɒtʃmən] *n.* 值夜人。



What poem can you find in outer space?



A uni-verse!

- poem ['pəuɪm] *n.* 诗。