

简明英语自学系列



轻松阅读 英语 短文



贺银花 编著 郝振甫 审订

广泛且大量的阅读，不但能开阔我们的视野，还能增进我们的语文能力，英语的学习亦同；尤其是风趣、幽默的文章，更能引发阅读的兴趣。本书特别收录38篇英语短文，内容幽默有趣，让您以轻松的心情学习；每篇并附词汇介绍、词语精解及中译，可供不同层次的英语爱好者学习与参考。

英语教学专家
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轻松阅读 英语短文



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前 言

我们知道在英语学习的听、说、读、写四个基本技巧中，阅读是很基本的、也是很重要的学习手段。因为阅读可以扩大我们的词汇，丰富我们的知识，拓展我们的视野，甚至还可以提高我们的写作水平。因此，进行大量的阅读练习将有助于提高我们的英语水平。

为了提高读者的英语阅读能力，激发阅读英语的兴趣，我们特汇编了五十篇英语幽默小品。每篇内容幽默风趣，具有很高的可读性，而且每篇还附有词汇、词语精解以及译文，是集趣味性和知识性于一体的英语阅读选集，可供不同层次的英语爱好者学习时参考，对英语老师也有一定的参考价值。

编 者

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1

Innocent Personators

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

One evening she met Captain Humphreys 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 the matron, "I've come to visit Captain Humphreys."

"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!”

【词汇】

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|
| army | <i>n.</i> | 军队，陆军 |
| camp | <i>n.</i> | 营地，帐篷 |
| agree | <i>v.</i> | 同意 |
| receive | <i>v.</i> | 收到，接收 |
| wounded | <i>adj.</i> | 受伤的 |
| matron | <i>n.</i> | 护士长 |
| relative | <i>n.</i> | 亲戚 |
| patient | <i>n.</i> | 病人 |
| visit | <i>v.</i> | 探望，探视 |
| captain | <i>n.</i> | 上尉 |

【词语精解】

1. be wounded :

受伤，受到伤害（感到痛心）

Twenty soldiers **were** killed and thirty **wounded**.

二十名士兵阵亡，另有三十名受伤。

She **was wounded** by his heartlessness.

她为他的无情无义感到痛心。

2. be allowed to do sth :

被允许做某事

The child *is allowed to watch* cartoon for half an hour every day.

这个小孩被允许每天看半个小时的卡通片。

She *is not allowed to go out* in the evening.

晚上她不能外出。

译文

无辜的冒充者

第

二次世界大战期间，英国的许多青年妇女在军中服役。琼·菲利普斯就是其中之一。她在一个大营区里工作，自然结识了许多男人，既有军官，也有士兵。

一天晚上，她在舞会上认识汉弗莱斯上尉。他对她说：“明天我将出国，如果我们能相互通信，我会感到非常高兴。”琼表示同意，从此他们书信来往，数月不断。

后来他的信中断了，但她收到另一位军官的来信，信中告诉她，汉弗莱斯受了伤，现在住在英国某陆军医院里。

琼找到那家医院，对护士长说：“我来探望汉弗莱斯上尉。”

“这里只允许亲属探望病人。”护士长说。

“哦，行啊，”琼回答说，“我是他的妹妹。”

“非常高兴认识你，”护士长说，“我是他的妈妈。”

2

Buying Paintings

Mr. Robinson won a lot of money on the football pools, but he did not know what would be the best thing to do with it, so he went to a friend who knew a lot about money matters. This friend said to him : “Go and buy some modern paintings. Their value goes up every year.”

Mr. Robinson went to a splendid art shop and looked at some modern paintings. He did not understand them at all, and thought that they were terrible and also very expensive.

At last he saw a small picture which did not have a price on it. It was square and white, and had a black spot in the middle, and a narrow brass frame. Mr. Robinson liked it better than any of the others in the shop.

“How much is this one?” he said to the shopkeeper.

“That, sir,” answered the shopkeeper, “is the electric light switch.”

【词汇】

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|------------|
| pool | <i>n.</i> | 总赌注 |
| football pools | | 为足球赛所下的总赌注 |
| painting | <i>n.</i> | 油画，绘画 |
| splendid | <i>adj.</i> | 极好的 |
| expensive | <i>adj.</i> | 昂贵的 |
| square | <i>adj.</i> | 正方形的，方形 |
| spot | <i>n.</i> | 点，斑点 |
| value | <i>n.</i> | 价值 |
| brass | <i>n.</i> | 黄铜 |
| frame | <i>n.</i> | 框架 |
| shopkeeper | <i>n.</i> | 店老板 |

【词语精解】

1. **do with** : 利用，处置

What can you **do with** a ten-dollar note?

十元纸钞够你用吗？

The best thing to **do with** a ten-dollar note is to buy a book.

十元拿来买一本书是最好不过的。

2. **go up** :

上升，增长，提高，上涨

Prices have **gone up** rapidly in the past months.

前几个月，物价一直在迅速上涨。

His temperature hasn't *gone up* yet.

他的体温还未上升。

译文

买 画

鲁

宾逊先生买足球赛赌券，赢了很多钱，但他不知道用这笔钱做什么最合适，于是他去找一位精通花钱之道的朋友。

这位朋友对他说：“你去买些现代画派的油画，它们的价值与年俱增。”

鲁宾逊先生走进一家极好的艺术品店，看了一些现代画派的油画。他对这些画一窍不通，他认为这些画非常糟糕，何况价钱又十分昂贵。

最后他看到一副没有标价的小画。画面是正方形，呈白色，中央有一块黑色斑点，带有窄细的黄铜框架。在该店的所有画中，鲁宾逊先生比较喜欢这一幅。

“这幅画多少钱？”他问店老板。

“那个嘛，先生，”店老板回答说，“是电灯开关。”

3

Marriage or Funeral

A tourist was standing outside a very big church in Germany when a wedding party got out of some cars and went into the church. Everybody was very well dressed, and there were a lot of photographers, so the tourist thought : “The people getting married must be famous.” He turned to a man who was standing beside him and said : “What is the name of the man who is getting married?”

The man answered : “Ich spreche kein English.” *

The tourist thanked him and went into the church. As he was coming out of another door, a coffin was carried out. There had been a funeral service in one of the side chapels of the church.

The tourist turned to one of the people in the church and said : “Whose funeral was that?”

The man answered : “Ich spreche kein English.”

“Well,” said the tourist, “his marriage didn’t last long.”

* German : I don't speak any English.

【词汇】

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------|------------|
| tourist | <i>n.</i> | 旅游者, 观光客 |
| wedding | <i>n.</i> | 婚礼, 婚庆, 结婚 |
| photographer | <i>n.</i> | 摄影师 |
| famous | <i>adj.</i> | 著名的, 有知名度的 |
| church | <i>n.</i> | 教堂 |
| coffin | <i>n.</i> | 棺材 |
| funeral | <i>n.</i> | 丧礼 |
| chapel | <i>n.</i> | 小礼拜堂, 自由教堂 |
| marriage | <i>n.</i> | 婚姻 |
| last | <i>v.</i> | 持续, 维持 |

【词语精解】

1. be dressed / get dressed :

常用被动式, 意为“穿着”

She ***was dressed*** in green, when I saw her yesterday.

我昨天看见她时, 她穿着绿色的衣服。

They ***were dressed*** in fashion.

他们穿着时髦的衣服。

2. last :

持续, 延续, 维持

How long will the bad weather ***last***?

这种坏天气将持续多久?

The movie *lasted* for two hours.

这部电影片长两个小时。

They had plenty of food to *last* 3 days.

他们有足够维持三天的食物。

译文

婚礼还是殡仪

一个观光客正站在德国的一间大教堂外面。当时，正好一群参加婚礼的人从一些小汽车里出来，走进那间教堂。每个人都衣着华丽，而且后面还跟着一大群摄影师，因此，观光客心中暗想：“这对新婚夫妇一定都是知名人士。”他转向站在身边的一个人问道：“这位结婚的男士叫什么名字？”

那个人回答道：“依希，斯普雷希，克英，英格里希。”*

观光客向他道了谢，走进了教堂。当他从另外一道门走出来的时候，只见有人抬出来一口棺材。原来在教堂侧面的一间小教堂里刚举行了一场葬礼。

观光客又转身问一个站在教堂里的人道：“这是谁的葬礼呀？”

那人回答道：“依希，斯普雷希，克英，英格里希。”*

“哇，”旅游者自言自语道，“这个人的婚姻生活实在是太短