

96.美艺

ENGLISH HUMOUR STORIES

喧宾夺主

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随着我国改革开放的深入,英语在我们生活和工作中的作用也越来越明显。无论是从事对外贸易、科技研究,还是参与体育比赛、文化活动,甚至与国外的亲友联系,几乎都要用到英语。尽管语言学家已经发明了世界语,但是世界上实际应用最广的语言仍是英语。就此而言,英语是真正的"世界语",至少目前如此,这也就是为什么学习英语能成为一种世界性热潮的原因。最近十多年来,我国也有越来越多的人投入到英语学习中,他们孜孜不倦地学习英语,刻苦勤奋地钻研英语。这固然是自身生活和工作的需要,但同样也是改革开放的需要,既符合自己的个人利益,也符合国家和民族的利益。

但是,对许多英语学习者来说,学习英语却很不容易,因为他们中大多数人都没有机会接受专业的英语训练,而只是利用业余时间学习英语。这样他们不仅缺少学习英语的语言环境,而且对英语学习的方法也不是很了解,常把精力化在反复背诵单词和机械操练英语句型上。这样做当然也有必要,但是光是背诵和进行机械的句式操练,毕竟过于单调和枯燥,久而久之不仅使学习者产生沉重感乃至厌倦感,而且也很难取得好的学习效果。其实,学习

英语的方式是多种多样的,背诵单词和进行句式操练是一种方法,但除此之外还有更多的途径,譬如广泛大量的阅读也是一种提高英语学习效果的有效手段。

上海世界图书出版公司即将出版的《休闲英语》丛书将给广大英语学习者提供一种新的学习样式。这种学习样式不是单纯地为学习而学习,而是将学习、娱乐、休息三者有机地结合起来,使学习时不感枯燥,休息时不感负担,在欢快的气氛中不知不觉地将语言知识融汇贯通,寓学于休息之时,寓学于娱乐之中,达到事半功倍的效果。

计划中的《休闲英语》丛书有很多辑,有轻轻松松学英语系列,英汉对照的趣味幽默故事系列、名人演说系列、格言妙语系列,以及歌曲游戏系列等等。总之,《休闲英语》丛书的内容是丰富多彩的,它的面貌是活泼可爱的。我相信,它问世后一定会在不同年龄、不同层次、不同要求的英语学习者中找到知音,和大家成为好朋友。

戴炜栋 一九九四年十一月

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A novice lion tamer was being interviewed. 'I understand your father was also a lion tamer,' the reporter queried.

'Yes, he was,' the man replied.

'Do you actually put your head in the lion's mouth?'

'I did it only once,' said the new tamer, 'to look for Dad.'

- 一个驯狮新手正在接受采访。"我知道你父亲 也是一位驯狮员,"记者询问道。
 - "对,他是的,"那人回答。
 - "你真的将头探进狮子的口中?"
- "我只做过一次,"新驯兽员说道,"为了找我父亲。"

interview ['intəvju:] v. n. 会谈,(记者)访问。

novice ['novis] n. 新手,初学者
tamer [teimə] n. 驯养人,驯服…的人
reporter [ri'pɔ:tə] n. 报告人,记者,笔录人
query ['kwiəri] n. v. 询问,疑问

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At the Lake Hotel where I worked in downtown Chicago, the offical maxim was 'Give the customers what they want.' Our ability to meet that goal was tested one day when a large tour group overwhelmed the registration area.

One impatient man bullied his way through the crowd, banged his fist on the front desk and demanded, 'I want a room that faces the ocean!'

In a voice that all could hear, the young clerk answered, 'Certainly, sir. Atlantic or Pacific?'

我工作的湖滨饭店位于芝加哥的商业区,它有一句格言"满足顾客的任何要求"。有一天我们达到 这个目标的能力,在一个大型旅游团开到登记处时 受到了考验。 一个性急的人粗鲁地推开众人,用拳头砰砰捶 着柜台要求道:"我要一间朝着大海的房间。"

年轻的接待员用大家都能听到的声音回答: "行啊,先生。大西洋还是太平洋?"

maxim ['mæksim] n. 格言,准则 ability [ə'biliti] n. 能力 goal [goul] n. 目标,目的 overwhelme [nouvə'hwelm] v. 覆盖,压倒 registration [nredʒis'treifən] n. 登记,注册 impatient [im'peifənt] a. 不耐烦的,急躁的 bully ['buli] v. 威吓 crowd [kraud] n. 人群 bang [bæŋ] v. 猛敵,砰砰地敲 fist [fist] n. 拳头 clerk [klə;k] n. 办事员,职员

My husband and I maintain both joint and separate credit-card accounts. As I fumbled in my purse one day looking for the right card to pay for some purchases, I explained to the salesclerk that I had 'my' card, 'his' card and 'our' card.

'That's okay,' he replied. 'As long as you don't have "their" card.'

我丈夫和我既拥有共同的信用卡帐户,又拥有各自分开的信用卡帐户。一天,为了付帐,我在手提包里摸索着寻找合适的信用卡,我对售货员解释道,我有"我的"卡、"他的"卡以及"我们的"卡。

"那没问题,"他答道,"只要您没有'他们的' 卡。"

maintain [men'tein] v. 维持

joint [dʒoint] a. 共同的,共有的
separate ['sepərit] a. 单独的,分离的
credit-card 信用卡
account [ə'kaunt] n. 帐,帐户
fumble ['fʌmbl] v. 摸索,乱摸
purse [pəːs] n. (女用)手提包,小包
purchase ['pəːtʃəs] n. 买,所购物
as long as 长达…,只要

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'I beg your pardon,' said the man returning to his seat in the theatre, 'but did I step on your toes when I left?'

'You certainly did!' answered the annoyed patron.

The man turned to his companion. 'Honey, come on,' he said, 'we' re in the right row!'

剧场内,一个男人回到他的座位时说:"请原谅,刚才我离开时踩着您的脚趾了吧?"

"你当然踩着啦!"愠怒的观众回答。

那男人转向他的女伴。"亲爱的,来吧,"他说, "这排对了!"

toe [tou] n. 脚趾 annoy [ə'nɔi] v. 使烦恼,使生气

patron ['peitrən] n. 老顾客,主顾 companion [kəm'pænjən] n. 同伴 honey ['hʌni] n. 蜜,甜,(称呼)宝贝儿

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Andrew Marchen (1996) Andrew Marchen (1996)

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April 1997 - Principle Control of Control of

en de la companya de la co While in school, I worked part-time in a bookstore. When one customer was returning a recently purchased book, I asked for her name, address and the other information required on a refund slip. Then we came to the last question.

'Reason for return?' I asked.

Her matter-of-fact reply: 'I didn' t like the ending.'

学生时代,我曾在一家书店兼职。有位顾客来退一本新买的书,我询问她的姓名、地址以及其他需在退款单上填写的信息。然后我们进入最后一个问题。

"退书的理由?"我问道。

她实事求是地回答:"我不喜欢它的结尾。"

part-time 非全日的,兼职的
customer ['kʌstəmə] n. 顾客
return [ri'tə:n] v. 回,回来,归还
recently ['ri:sntli] ad. 新近地,最近地
refund [ri:'fʌnd] v. n. 归还,偿还(额)
slip [slip] n. 纸条,板条
reason ['ri:zn] n. 理由,原因

My mother often feeds pigeons in the park near her home in Portland, Maine. One day, as she fed the growing flock surrounding her, a man came over to her. 'While you' re feeding perfectly good bread to the birds,' he told mother angrily, 'there are people starving in Africa.'

Mother, never one to back down from a fight, looked him in the eye and said, 'I' m sorry, but I can't throw that far!'

我母亲常在缅因州波特兰市她家附近的公园 里喂鸽子。一天,正当她喂着身边越聚越多的鸽群时,一个男人向她走去。"您将这么好的面包喂鸟,' 他愤愤地对母亲说道,"而非洲却有人在挨饿。"

母亲,一位从来也不会在斗争中退缩的人,瞪着他说道:"很抱歉,可我没法扔那么远!"

feed [fi:d] v. 喂(养)
pigeon ['pidʒin] n. 鸽子
flock [flok] n. (飞禽、牲畜等的)群,一群人
surround [sə'raund] v. 围绕
perfect ['pə:fikt] a. 完美的,完全的
angrily ['ængrili] ad. 愤怒地
starve [sta:v] v. 挨饿,渴望
back down 让步

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