



趣味美语 双关语

施展 Sean Shi

——教你像美国人那样对话与思考

Teach You to Talk and Think
Just Like a Native Speaker

任濟日報 出版社

FUN ENGLISH PUNS



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Sean Shi





Preface

Words or sentences with more than one meaning are an essential ingredient in witty everyday conversations and impressive writings. One sign of mastery of the English language is when you comprehend and sometimes crack up in a comedy club or watching a standup comedy on TV. I have cousins and friends in my age who have an excellent command of English, mostly in terms of grammatical rules, and yet they'll just sit there staring at me while I laugh to tears watching a comedy on TV. It's a bit sad that they often blame themselves for not having a large vocabulary or having listening comprehension problems in general. The sad part, however, is they do understand most of those words and phrases. The comedians' monologues aren't spoken very fast either. The problem is they often missed the double meanings in many of the English words and phrases and the contexts in which those meanings appear.



I had that thought one half year ago to collect as many as possible words and phrases with multiple meanings and write the explanations as one way to help my relatives learn English and have fun at the same time. The more stories and one-liners that I had collected the more it appeared to me that I was actually authoring a little book. And that book could possibly benefit thousands of English learners who wish to talk and think like a native speaker but minus the arduous and boring process of language learning. This book, *Fun English Puns*, is my gift (it's a pun) to them. It is also a gift for myself. I have heard many times how writers are usually scared to death reading their work again after it's done. I don't have that problem. I still chuckle reading this first book of mine again and again. I have also become more popular at school since I am now a center of laughter. As many know, laughter is the best medicine in a stressful environment, such as high school or college.

My sincerest thanks, first of all, are to the unknown originators of the puns and their oral and written distributors. You make the



world a better place to live! Still, this book would not have been possible without the help of many people whom I do know. I would like to thank Zhou Wei, my editor at Economic Daily Press, for her encouragement and comments and suggestions. She was also the one who sent me frequent notices, pushing me to get this book done despite my crazy schedule for everything else. Speaking of motivations, I thank my seven-year old brother, Scott. Writing is a grueling process, especially when you need to look at one sentence over and over. Scott was there to make sure the pun stayed funny, laughing at it every time, even though he may not have understood it. I'd like also to thank my mother for cutting some slack on my piano practice time and for driving away my little brother when he became a little too helpful. Last but definitely not the least, I want to thank my dad, for he was the real force behind this whole project. He was the iron whip, forcing me to concentrate and finish the task at hand instead of wandering off and wasting my time. Many times have I drifted off the task, but my dad was there to get



me back on track. Besides all that, he was also the translator. My dad would work whole days without breakfast and lunch, finishing his own work, just so he could help me on this project.

I hope that you, the reader, will benefit from this book as much as I have. This whole process has made me a more hardworking person. I sincerely hope that through this book, your English will improve to an extent that you are just like a native speaker.

Sean Shi
Cuperertino, California
U.S.A.

前言

多义词句是机智诙谐对话并给人留下深刻印象的写作之重要元素。当您坐在喜剧俱乐部里或观看电视中的单口秀时，您若能理解那些笑话并不时放声大笑，那是您对英语熟练掌握的一个标志。我的表哥表姐和堂姐还有他们的一些朋友实际上英文程度都很高，尤其是语法。不过每次我们一起观看电视中的英语笑剧时，我笑得掉泪，他们却眼睁睁地看着我。令人心酸的是他们经常怪自己词汇量欠多，听力理解差，而事实是他们懂得笑话中绝大多数的词句。那些脱口秀语速也不过分快。问题恰恰在于他们往往不能理解词语之多重意义及在何种情形下某个意义的出现。

半年多前我突发一念，想尽可能多地收集多义词句并撰写注解，以此来帮助我在中国的亲戚边学英语边过个好时光。随着那些越来越多的笑话故事及单句，我慢慢地觉得我实际上已在写作一本小书，一本可能帮助成千上万企图像美国本土人那样对话和思考但又想省去那艰苦枯燥语言学习过程的人们的书。这就是这本题为“趣味英语双关语——教您如何像本土人那样对话与思考”的书。它是我献给他们的礼物(gift, 亦有天赋之意)。它



也是给我自己的一份礼。常听人讲起作者在作品完成后重读时如此这般地恐惧，但我倒是没有那感觉。相反我每次重读本书时还是会不时地窃笑。我在校园里的人气好象也更旺了，那是因为我常成了欢笑的中心。很多人了解笑声是中学那样紧张环境中的最佳解药。

首先，我对书中双关语的无名发明者及口授笔授者表示我最诚挚的感谢。他们使得这个世界更美好！还有许多我知道他们名字的人，没有他们也就没有这本书。我要感谢中国的经济日报出版社副总编辑周巍阿姨的鼓励，评价和建议，还有那频繁的催促。没有这些，本书一定还陷于我近似疯狂的日程中。讲到鼓励，我要感谢我七岁的小弟施洋。写作是一个令人精疲力竭的过程，特别是对某些句子反复推敲时。施洋总会在那关键时刻出现，用他的笑声给我打气，使我确认故事要好笑。每次重复时他都会笑，即便有时他可能对故事只是一知半解。我还要感谢我的妈妈，为了我写这本书她有时竟同意减少我钢琴练习的时间，还会在我的小弟过度“帮忙”时将他“赶开”。最后但决不是最少，我要谢谢我爸爸。他才是这个项目背后的真正力量。他是条“铁鞭”，逼着我集中精力完成手中的任务。很多时候我忘了这个项目，开始游荡时，他总是将我捉回原位。另外，他还是本书的译者。我爸爸常废寝忘食将他自己的事情做完，这样他就能腾出时间帮我完



成本书的写作。

我希望读者能像我一样从本书中获益良多。整个写作过程教育了我如何努力工作。我也真诚希望通过阅读本书您的英语能进步到美国本地人的水平。

施 展

于美国加利福尼亚州



There once was Father Tomato, Mother Tomato and Baby Tomato. The family loved exercise. One lovely evening, they went out running. After just a little while Baby Tomato started to have trouble keeping up with the fast-rolling parents. Father Tomato waited and waited for the baby to trudge along, but grew more and more impatient. Finally he walked to Baby Tomato, smacked him hard and yelled "Catch up!"

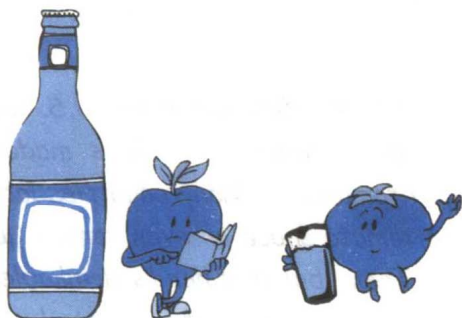
*Explanation: **Ketchup** in the U.S. and U.K means tomato sauce, which is made from squashed tomatoes. Many countries label the product tomato sauce or even tomato juice in a few of them, but it is hardly drinkable. Anyway, the father was quite irritated with the slow pace of the baby tomato. So in addition to smacking the baby tomato hard, he also shouted for it to "catch up", threatening to make him Ketchup.*



Ketchup 在美国和英国均指番茄酱，你会在任何一家出卖汉堡的快餐店中看到，用来和着炸薯条吃的那种东西。番茄酱顾名思义由蕃茄压烂成酱而成。有些国家称它为蕃茄汁，即便它浓得喝不下。这篇短文中，番茄老爸对小蕃茄步履缓慢拖在后面实在不耐烦了，就狠敲了小番茄一下，并大吼一声“赶上 (**Catch up**)!” **Catch up** 在发音上跟 **Ketchup** 一模一样。相信老爸无意将儿子打烂成酱，不过这么一敲，小番茄就可能永远也赶不上了。

YES YOU CAN!

To write with a broken pencil is pointless.



of "grinstasht" "qu dntas" of "catch up" "thrusting to



A couple of clams were eating chocolate bars while two fish watched.

"Did you see that?" one fish said, as the clams finished their treat.

"They didn't offer us a single bite!"

"What do you expect?" asked the other fish. "They're two shellfish."

Explanation: This pun is another example of a word pronounced like another word. The two shellfish wouldn't give any chocolate to the fish because they were too selfish.

这是另一个同音不同词的例子。蚌类(clam)是贝类的(shellfish)一种。那两只河蚌不跟其他鱼儿分享巧克力,那是因为它们太自私(selfish)。two shellfish 和 too selfish 发音近似。



YES YOU CAN!

Some people's noses and feet are built backwards: their feet smell and their noses run.





A neutron goes into a bar and asks the bartender, "How much for a beer?" The bartender replies, "For you, no charge."

*Explanation: We know that a neutron has neither a positive charge nor a negative charge. In this case **no charge** also means no money needed or free of charge. Because the neutron has no charge, the bartender swings up the beer for him for free, such a quick reaction only possible in the knowledge economy.*

我们知道中子既无正电荷也无负电荷，即无荷(no charge)粒子。No charge 又可指不要钱，免费。因为中子是无荷(no charge)粒子，酒吧招待甩手就给了它一杯免费(no charge)啤酒，一语双关，既说了这位中子“客人”无荷，又说了这杯啤酒免费。可见现代吧郎反应之快，不愧为生活在知识经济时代的人。



YES YOU CAN!

A cardboard belt would be a waist of paper.

