

中学生英汉对照小读物

# 幽默故事

(一)

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ENGLISH (一)

书编委会



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## A Pair of Boots Bought by Two Brothers

Two brothers pooled money to buy a pair of boots, agreeing that they would take turns wearing the new boots.

However, the younger brother wore the boots every day and the older brother was not able to touch the new boots during the daytime. The older brother felt he was losing out, so every night when his younger brother fell asleep, he put on the new boots and walked back and forth until daybreak.

Soon the new boots wore out. The younger brother said to his brother, "Shall we pool money to buy another pair of shoes?"

The older brother frowned. "No. Since we bought the boots together I haven't had a good night's sleep. I'd rather have a good rest every night."

## 兄弟合买靴

兄弟二人凑钱合买了一双靴子。商量好轮流穿。

靴子买回来后,弟弟白天总穿着靴子走路,哥哥捞不着机会穿,可又不甘心白出钱,便等晚上弟弟睡着了,再穿起靴子。哥哥每夜都穿着靴子遛来遛去,一直到天亮。

靴子很快就穿破了。弟弟对哥哥地说:“咱俩再合买一双新的吧?”

哥哥听了，紧皱眉头说：“不买了。自从买了靴子之后，夜间我就没有好好睡过觉。还是让我睡个好觉吧。”

## The King's Three Questions

Many years ago, in the time of King John, there was an Abbot. The Abbot was famous for having a large and rich house and when King John heard this, he was very angry. He sent a messenger to bring the Abbot to him.

“You are a traitor,” the King said. The Abbot knew why the King was angry and replied:

“My lord, I spend no more than I have. Surely there is on law against that?” But the King wouldn't listen. The king said:

“You will lost your head and all you riches unless your can answer my three questions. first, how much am I worth? Second, how long will it take me to ride around the world? Third, What I'm thinking?”

“My Lord, give me three days to find the answer.”

The King agreed and the Abbot left him to return home, but he was in despair because although he was very clever, he did not know the answers.

On the way back home, the Abbot met the shepherd who looked after his sheep. “Good morning, my Lord, welcome home,” said the shepherd. “But why do you look so sad? Do you have bad news?” “Very bad news,” the Abbot replied, “I

have only three days to live if I cannot answer the questions, set by the King.” After he repeated the questions the shepherd laughed, “My Lord, have you heard the saying—A fool can teach a wise man? Give me your horse and clothes and I will go, disguised as you, to answer King John.”

The Abbot agreed and the shepherd dressed up in the Abbot's clothes and went to see the King.

“Good morning, Abbot,” said King John. “Now, can you tell me what I am worth?” The shepherd said, “Jesus was bought and sold for thirty silver pieces, so you are worth twenty—nine, because I cannot value you as much as him. “The King laughed, “Is that all? Now, tell me how long it will take me to ride around the world?”

The shepherd replied, “If you rise with sun and ride with him all day, you will ride around the world in 24 hours.”

“Very clever,” the King said, “but one question remains. Can you tell me what I am thinking?” “Yes, I can,” said the shepherd. “You think I'm the Abbot, but I am simply his shepherd, and I have come to ask your pardon us.”

King John was very pleased by the cleverness of the shepherd. “You are both forgiven and you may have this bag of gold as a reward for your cleverness.”

## 国王的三个问题

许多年前,在约翰国王时代,有一个修道院院长。这院长

以一幢大而豪华的房屋而著名，人们说它比国王的房子还好。国王听到后非常生气。于是他就派遣一名使者将院长带到了他面前。“你是个叛逆，”国王说。院长知道国王为什么生气，就回答说：

“皇上陛下，我并未花费不义之财。（我）相信我没有违反任何一条法律。”但是国王不愿意听。国王说：“你将被处死，你所有财产也要充公，除非你能回答我的三个问题。第一，我值多少钱？第二，周游世界将花费我多少时间？第三，我在想什么？”院长答道：“尊敬的陛下，请给我三天时间去寻找答案。”

国王同意了，院长离开国王回家了，但是他非常绝望，因为尽管他非常聪明，却不知道这些答案。

在回家的路上，院长碰到了他家里的牧羊人。“早晨好，我的主人，欢迎你回家。”牧羊人说：“你看上去为何如此伤心？难道有什么坏消息吗？”“非常坏的消息。”院长答道：“如果我不能回答国王的问题，我就只有三天的时间可以活了。”当他重复了那三个问题之后，牧羊人笑道：“我的主人，你听说过吗——一个愚蠢的人可以教一个聪明的人，把你的马和衣服给我，让我假扮成你的模样，我去回答国王的问题。”院长同意了，牧羊人穿上院长的衣服就去见国王了。

“早晨好，院长。”约翰国王说。“现在你能告诉我我值多少钱了吗？”牧羊人道：“耶稣被出卖的价值是三十个银币，所以你值二十九个。因为我不能使您的价值和他一样。”国王笑道：“是吗？嗯，现在告诉我周游世界将花费我多长时间？”

牧羊人答道：“如果你一整天都乘坐太阳，那么你在二十四小时内将周游世界。”

“非常聪明，”国王说，“但还留一个问题呢，你能告诉我，

我现在想什么吗？“我能，”牧羊人答道：“你在想我是那个院长，但是，我只是他的牧羊人，现在我特来请求你宽恕我们。”

约翰国王对牧羊人的聪明才智感到非常高兴：“你们俩都将得到宽恕了，你可以得到这袋金子作为你聪明才智的报酬。”

## Hans the Butterman

When New York city was not very big, there was a market on the East River.

Every day Hans the butterman sat without a smile, selling pounds of butter from a table beside him. Many people said that his butter wasn't the right weight. They said that his rolls of butter didn't weigh as much as a pound.

Once the weighmaster came walking down the road. He was looking for people who did not sell the full weight. Some one told him, "Watch Hans, the butterman."

Hans had good eyes. He saw the weighmaster and quickly put a heavy piece of gold into the first roll of butter, between the butter and its cover.

A captain was standing beside Hans's table, and he had seen all that.

"Good morning," the weighmaster came up to Hans and said.

"Good morning," said Hans. "I think that you are looking for farmers who trick the people of our town."

"I am," said the weighmaster. "Someone told me that your rolls of butter don't weigh a full pound."

"Oh, yes, they do. Here, weighmaster. Here is a roll of butter, weight it yourself," said Hans.

Hans took the first roll of butter and gave it to the weighmaster.

The weighmaster took his scales and put the butter onto it. The roll weighed more than a pound.

"I've made a mistake," said the weighmaster. "You are an honest man. There is enough butter in this roll."

Then the captain stood in front of Hans's table.

"You are an honest man, so I want to buy some of your butter," he said. "I'll take this one."

"Hans's heart began beating more quickly. No, not that one. I have sold that one to a friend of mine. Take another one."

"No, I want this one," said the captain.

"I won't sell it to you. I told you that I've sold it to a friend," said Hans.

"I ask you, good Weighmaster," said the captain angrily, "don't I have the right to choose the piece of butter that I want? I will pay good money for it."

"Of course you have the right, Captain," said the weighmaster. "What are you afraid of, Hans? Aren't all the rolls of butter alike? Perhaps I have to weigh all of them."

What could Hans say? What could he do? He had to smile

and sell the butter to the captain. The captain gave Hans three cents for the butter.

The captain and the weighmaster walked away together.

"You punished the thief," said the weighmaster.

"No, he punished himself," said the captain, smiling.

## 卖黄油的汉斯

在纽约城还不是很大的时候，城东的易斯物河旁有一个集市。

每天卖黄油的汉斯一本正经地坐在那儿，卖着那些放在他身旁桌子上的黄油卷。许多人都说他卖的黄油斤两不足，每卷黄油没有一磅重。

一会儿，一位市场核称员沿着大路走来。他在查找那些克扣斤两的卖主。有人就跟他说：“注意汉斯，那个卖黄油的。”

汉斯十分留神周围的情况。他一看到核称员，就迅速向放在最前面的一卷黄油的黄油与包皮之间塞进一块很重的金块。

这时一位市场监督正站在汉斯的桌旁，这一切都看到了。

“你好，”核称员走过来向汉斯打招呼。

“你好，”汉斯答道：“我想你是在查找那些欺骗我们镇民的农夫。”

“是的，”核称员说：“有人告诉我你的黄油斤两不足。”

“哦，他们是这样讲的吗？喏，这一卷黄油你自己称一称吧。”汉斯说。

汉斯拿最前面的那卷黄油，递给了核称员。

核称员拿起称，把那卷黄油放进称中，那卷黄油有一磅多重。

“我弄错了。”核称员说：“你是一个诚实的人，这卷黄油是足斤两的。”

这时，那位监督站到汉斯的桌前说：“你是一个诚实的人，所以我想买一些你的黄油。”说着也不等汉斯回答，就拿起那卷塞有金子的黄油说：“我就买这个。”

汉斯的心开始剧跳起来，“不，那卷不行，我已经把它卖给我的一个朋友了，另外拿一卷吧。”

“不，我要买这卷。”监督坚持说。

“我不能把这卷卖给你。我给你说过，我已经把它卖给一位朋友了。”汉斯说。

“请问，公正的核称员，”监督愤怒地说，“难道我无权挑选我想要的黄油卷吗？我会付足钱的。”

“你当然有，监督。”然后核称员又问汉斯：“你有什么可担心的？难道你的黄油卷不一样重吗？如果是这样的话，我就不得不把你的所有黄油卷都称一下。”

汉斯无法可想，只得笑了一笑，把那卷黄油卖给了监督，监督也为此付给汉斯三分钱。

然后，监督和核称员一起离开了。

“你惩罚了那个贼。”核称员说。

“不，是他惩罚了他自己。”监督微笑着回答。

## An Upside Down Loan Receipt

A rich man once demanded the payment of a debt. Being



illiterate, he held the receipt for the loan upside down.

The debtor sneered at him for not being able to read Chinese characters. Afraid of losing his dignity, the rich man pretended to be angry: "Do I need to read the receipt? I held the receipt for you to read."

## 倒拿借据

一个财主向人索债,只因不识字,把借据拿颠倒了。

那人讥笑他连字的上下都分不清楚。这财主最怕人说自己不识字,丢了身份,便佯装<sup>①</sup>生气地说:“我拿着字据是给你看的,难道是我自己要看吗?”

## Pulling Out All the Hairs

A rich man about fifty years old took a second wife not long ago.

One day the rich man found grey hair at his temples and asked his two wives to help him pull them out.

The first wife thought if her husband looked young, the second wife would love him. Therefore she began to pull out all the black hairs. The second wife was afraid that if her husband looked old, he would be more interested in his first wife. Thus she pulled out all his grey hairs. In a short while, all the hairs

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① 佯(yáng)装:假装 Pretend.