

EVERYDAY ENGLISH SNACK
JOKES AND HUMOROUS STORIES

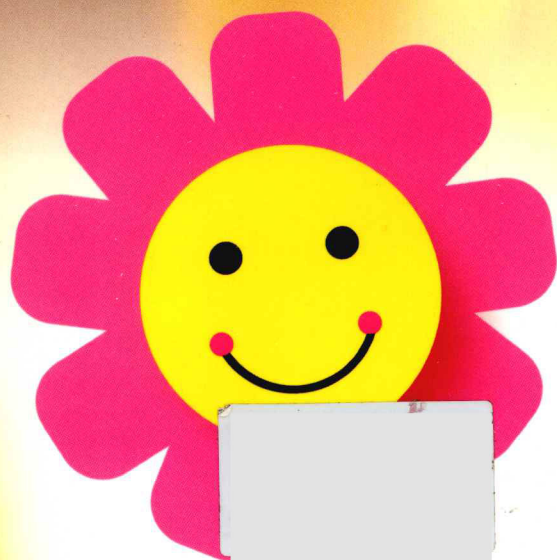
每天读点英文
幽默故事全集

吕爱红 戴卫平◎主编

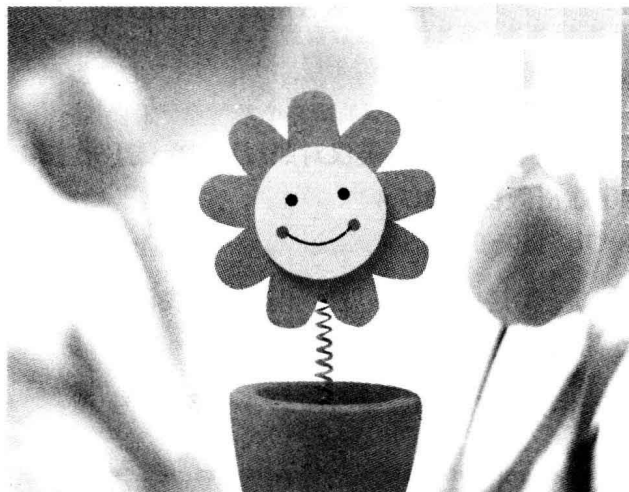
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每天读点英文 幽默故事全集

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前 言

长久以来，英语学习一直强调单词、句型、语法的习得，我们学来的英语严肃、正式，却有失活泼。在与以英语为母语的人交流时，常常会遭遇尴尬场面：外国朋友风趣、幽默地讲了一个笑话，我们却丝毫体会不到其中的笑料，傻傻地坐在那里没有反应。仔细想来，学习英语已有数年之久，单词认得成千上万，句型更是不在话下，早已烂熟于心，可就是不能理解小小的幽默故事，也体会不到其中的乐趣。因此，小小的幽默故事不容小觑，它融汇了英语国家人民千百年来的智慧，沉淀了这些民族上千年的文化，仅凭一些单词和句型根本无法理解其中的奥妙、感受其中的笑料。为了帮助英语学习者学习生活化的语言，理解英语国家人们的幽默、熟知这些国家的文化，我们组织了一批知识及经验丰富的编者编写了这本《每天读点英文幽默故事全集》。

本书选材广泛，囊括了经典的英文幽默故事和现代幽默故事，并根据内容将幽默故事归类：家庭幽默、两性幽默、天真童趣、名人幽默、职场幽默、医患幽默、军营幽默、校园幽默、宗教幽默、酒吧宾馆、律师法庭、警察交通、文字幽默、动物幽默、综合幽默。这些幽默故事都是编者精挑细选的结果：有长有短，有难有易，部分幽默故事可以作为英语学习者的口语、语音、语调练习材料，一些故事还不失诙谐的反映了社会现实，例如 **Why Is Lawyer Brain so Much More?** 这篇故事反映了律师在美国人心目中的恶劣形象——嗜血的鲨鱼，一闻到血腥味就自动靠过来，借着打官司来赚钱，并且能颠倒是非、混淆黑白、草菅人命，为了赚钱不择手段。在那些滑稽、诙谐、令人捧腹的语言背后，充满耐人寻味的丰富内涵，闪烁着心灵与智慧的光辉，展示了乐观、自信、积极的人生态度，具有一种神奇的力量。同时，为了帮助广大读者更好的理解这些幽默故事，所有故事都采用英汉对照的方式，翻译精彩，在忠实原文的基础上，将原文的笑料、“包袱”无一遗漏地呈现在读者眼前；对于故事

中的生词、词组都逐一作了注释，使读者在理解幽默故事的同时，扩大词汇量，开阔视野，感受不同的文化，让读者不仅知其一也知其二，例如 **Skip to Lose Weight** 这篇幽默故事中，**skip** 这个单词多次出现，有的指“跳跃”，有的指“略过，省去”，对于 **skip** 这个词的不同理解让人开怀大笑。读者通过每天读点英文幽默故事，不仅可以理解异国的文化及幽默，还可以学习生动活泼、富有生活化的语言。

我们真诚地希望《每天读点英文幽默故事全集》能每天陪伴读者左右，为英语学习者开启学习英语的另一个通道。由于编译者水平有限，疏漏之处敬请读者指正。

《每天读点英文幽默故事全集》编委会
2012年2月



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2. Father and Son

A farmer gathered his six sons and demanded, "Which one of you boys pushed the **outhouse**^[1] into the **creek**^[2]?" Nobody stepped forward. "Now, boys," the farmer asked, "Do you remember the story of George who **chopped down**^[3] that tree, but he told the truth, so his father was proud of him." Hearing this, the youngest son stepped forward and admitted his guilt, only to receive a **lashing**^[4] from his father.

"But Papa," the boy **protested**^[5], "you told me that George Washington's father was proud of him when he **confessed**^[6]."

"He was, son," the farmer replied. "But George Washington's father wasn't sitting in the tree when his son chopped it down."

父亲和儿子

一个农夫把六个儿子都叫过来责问：“是谁把厕所推到河里去了？”没有人站出来承认。“那么，孩子们，”农夫问，“你们还记不记得乔治的故事？乔治把树给砍倒了，但承认了错误，所以他的父亲为他而骄傲。”听到这席话，小儿子站了出来承认是他干的，但却遭到了父亲的一顿鞭打。

“但是爸爸，”小男孩抗议说，“你不是告诉我们说，乔治·华盛顿的父亲为儿子坦白错误而感到骄傲吗？”

“儿子，他是感到骄傲，”农夫回答，“但是乔治·华盛顿砍树时，他的父亲并没有坐在树上啊。”

注释

- [1] outhouse *n.* 厕所
[2] creek *n.* 小河, 小溪
[3] chop down 砍伐, 砍倒

- [4] lashing *n.* 鞭打, 痛斥
[5] protest *v.* 声明, 抗议
[6] confess *v.* 承认, 忏悔

3. Who's in Heaven?

An elderly gentleman had passed away. His grief-stricken widow missed him so much that she could not sleep a **wink**^[1] for days.

On one sleepless night, she heard a voice and immediately inquired, "Is that you, dear?"

"Yes, it's me."

"How are you doing?"

"I'm fine."

The concerned wife inquired further, "Are you happy now?"

"Yes, I'm happy now."

"Are you happier now than when you were with me?"

"Yes, much happier."

Assuming that her husband was enjoying the heavenly **bliss**^[2], with curiosity in her voice, the lady asked,

"Tell me dear, what's heaven like?"

"Who's in heaven?!"

谁在天堂？

一位老人去世了。他妻子很想念他，伤心不已，夜不能寐。

又是一个不眠之夜，妻子听到有什么声音，便立即问道：“是你吗，亲爱的？”

“是的，是我。”

“你现在过得好吗？”

“我过得很好。”

妻子又关切地问道：“你现在幸福吗？”

“嗯，挺幸福的。”

“比我们在一起时还幸福吗？”

“是的，幸福多了。”

得知丈夫在天堂很快乐，妻子又好奇地问道：

“亲爱的，跟我说说，天堂什么样啊？”

“谁在天堂啊？！”

注释

[1] wink *n.* 小睡，眨眼

[2] bliss *n.* 狂喜，极乐

4. Rejuvenation^[1] Pill

The old age had **crept**^[2] in on Mrs. Daly. Aches and pains **bothered**^[3] her day and night. One day, she received a package with some pills and a letter from her son. The letter said, “Dear Mom, I am sending you some wonder drug called rejuvenation pills. It will make you well and years younger.”

A few months later, Jimmy came home. Sitting on the **porch**^[4] was a beautiful young lady rocking a cradle with a baby in it sucking the bottle.

“Where is my mother?” Jimmy asked.

“Don't be silly. I am your mother. Those pills were **marvelous**^[5].”

“**Imagine**^[6], with one pill, you're as beautiful as anyone can be. Once more, you could have a baby. My, they are powerful.”

“That's not a baby. That's your father. He took two.”

返老还童药片

戴莉女士渐渐变老了，身上的疼痛日日夜夜折磨着她。有一天，戴莉收到儿子寄来的一个包裹，里面放着一些药片和一封信。儿子在信中说：“亲爱的妈妈，我给你寄来一些神奇的药片，返老还童药片，吃了后你会变得健康年轻。”

几个月后，吉米回到家。一位年轻美丽的女士坐在门廊上摇着摇篮，摇篮里有个婴儿吸着奶瓶。

“我的妈妈呢？”吉米问。

“别犯傻了，我就是你妈妈，那些药片太神了。”

“真是不可思议，那个药吃一片就可以美梦成真，再吃一片就可以生个孩子。哇噻，药片可真厉害。”

“那可不是孩子，那是你爸，他吃了两片。”

注释

[1] rejuvenation *n.* 返老还童,恢复活力[2] creep *v.* 缓慢行进[3] bother *v.* 打扰,使不安[4] porch *n.* 门廊[5] marvelous *a.* 极好的,非凡的,不可思议的[6] imagine *v.* 想象,料想

5. They Won't Let Me Fart

One evening a family brings their frail, elderly mother to a nursing home and leaves her, hoping she will be well cared for.

The next morning, the nurses bathe her, feed her a **tasty**^[1] breakfast, and set her in a chair at a window **overlooking**^[2] a lovely flower garden.

She seems OK, but after a while she slowly starts to lean over sideways in her chair.

Two **attentive**^[3] nurses immediately rush up to catch her and **straighten** her up^[4]. But after a while she starts to **tilt**^[5] to the other side.

The nurses rush back and once more bring her back upright. This goes on all morning. Later the family arrives to see how the old woman is **adjusting**^[6] to her new home. "So, Ma, how is it here? Are they treating you all right?" they ask. "It's pretty nice," she replies. "Except they won't let me **fart**^[7]."

就是不准我放屁

一个夜晚,一家人把年迈体虚的老母亲送到敬老院,希望她在那里能够得到悉心的照顾。

第二天,护士们给她洗澡,喂她吃不错的早餐,把她安顿在窗旁的椅子上欣赏漂亮的花园。

她看上去一切都好,但是过了一会儿,老太太又开始靠向另一边。

两个细心的护士立即跑上前扶起她来。但是过了一会老太太开始向另一边侧弯身子。

两个护士再一次跑过去把她扶正。就这样反反复复了一上午。后来家人来看望老太太,看她是不是适应这个新家。“妈,在这里过得怎么样?她们对你都好吗?”家人问。“很好,”老太太回答,“就是不准我放屁。”

注释

[1] **tasty** *a.* 美味的,可口的[2] **overlook** *v.* 俯视,眺望[3] **attentive** *a.* 注意的,留心的[4] **straighten up** 使直起来[5] **tilt** *v.* 倾斜[6] **adjust** *v.* 适应[7] **fart** *v.* 放屁

6. Pious Wishes

Martin is traveling with his wife and **mother-in-law**^[1] in a Far East country. At a place of honor his mother-in-law makes a careless **remark**^[2], which the native people take as an **insult**^[3] to the **royal**^[4] family.

Martin is dragged off to **court**^[5] with his wife and mother-in-law and they are **sentenced**^[6] to **corporal**^[7] punishment. Each of them is to receive 50 **lashes**^[8] on the **rear**^[9] end with a cane. But because the royal family doesn't want to appear **hostile**^[10] to foreigners, they **grant**^[11] the guests in their country a wish beforehand, as long as it is able to be fulfilled.

执行官很惊讶,但是很快回过神来,说:“这是个虔诚的心愿,可以实现。你的第二个愿望是什么?”
“我想把我的岳母绑在我后背上。”

注释

- [1] **mother-in-law** *n.* 丈母娘,岳母
[2] **remark** *v.* 评论
[3] **insult** *n.* 侮辱
[4] **royal** *a.* 皇室的
[5] **court** *n.* 法庭
[6] **sentence** *v.* 审判
[7] **corporal** *a.* 身体的
[8] **lash** *n.* 鞭打,抽打

- [9] **rear** *a.* 后面的
[10] **hostile** *a.* 充满敌意的
[11] **grant** *v.* 准许
[12] **pillow** *n.* 枕头
[13] **bound** *v.* (bind 的过去式) 捆绑,系
[14] **executioner** *n.* 执行者
[15] **pious** *a.* 虔诚的

7. Big Game Mishap^[1]

A big-game hunter went on **safari**^[2] with his wife and mother-in-law. One evening, while still deep in the jungle, the Mrs. awoke to find her mother gone. Rushing to her husband, she insisted on them both trying to find her mother.

The hunter picked up his **rifle**^[3], took a **swig**^[4] of whiskey, and started to look for her. In a **clearing**^[5] not far from the camp, they came upon a chilling sight: the mother-in-law was backed up against a thick, **impenetrable**^[6] bush, and a large male lion stood facing her.

The wife said, “What are we going to do?”

“Nothing,” said the hunter, “The lion got himself into this **mess**^[7], let him get himself out of it.”

倒霉的雄狮

一个专门猎杀狮子、大象等大型动物的猎人和妻子、岳母一起去打猎。一天晚上,他们在丛林深处扎了营。妻子一觉醒来,发现母亲不见了。她急忙跑去告诉丈夫,坚持要和丈夫一起去找她母亲。

猎人拿起复枪,喝了一大口威士忌,和妻子一起去寻找岳母。在距离帐篷不远的空地,他们看到一个令人不寒而栗的场景:岳母站在一片浓密的灌木丛前,无法后退,面对对着一头雄狮。

妻子说:“我们该怎么办?”

猎人说:“狮子自己惹的麻烦,让它自己解决吧。”

注释

- [1] **mishap** *n.* 小事故,倒霉事
[2] **safari** *n.* 游猎,捕猎野兽的旅行
[3] **rifle** *n.* 来复枪,步枪
[4] **swig** *n.* 大口(酒等)

- [5] **clearing** *n.* 林中空地
[6] **impenetrable** *a.* 不可进入的,穿不透的
[7] **mess** *n.* 困境,混乱

8. Role Reversal

Barbara Walters filed report on gender roles in Kuwait a few years **prior to**^[1] the Gulf War, and noted then that, in traditional **Islamic**^[2] fashion, women **customarily**^[3] walked about 10 feet behind their husbands.

Recently, Barbara returned to Kuwait and observed that the Men now walked several yards behind their

wives. She approached one of the Kuwaiti women for an explanation.

“This is **marvelous**^[4],” Barbara said, “What enabled women here to achieve their **reversal**^[5] of roles?”
The Kuwaiti woman replied, “Land mines.”

地位转换

海湾战争开始的前几年,芭芭拉·沃特斯对科威特的男女地位进行了报道。她当时注意到,按照伊斯兰教的传统,妇女通常跟在丈夫10米远的后面。

最近芭芭拉又来到科威特,她发现,现在男人都走在妻子后面几码远的地方。她走向一名科威特妇女,希望得到解释。

芭芭拉说:“这太神奇了,是什么使科威特妇女成功的转换了男女之间的地位呢?”
那名科威特妇女回答道:“是地雷。”

注释

[1] prior to 在……之前

[2] Islamic *a.* 伊斯兰教的

[3] customarily *adv.* 习惯地,习俗地

[4] marvelous *a.* 神奇的

[5] reversal *n.* 转换

9. A Bargain

A friend of mine, while visiting his mother in Florida, took her to a shoe store to **purchase**^[1] a new pair of shoes. While she was trying on different styles, my friend took the manager aside. “When she picks out a pair that she likes,” he said, “just tell her that the price is 12 dollars. I’ll pay the regular price, whatever it is.”

The following week, my friend was walking by the shoe store and the manager **recognized**^[2] him and called him in.

“What’s the problem?” asked my friend as he entered the store. “Wasn’t my **check**^[3] any good?”

“That’s not it.” answered the manager, “The problem is that your mother is bringing all her friends in for those twelve-dollar shoes.”

物美价廉

我的一个朋友到佛罗里达看望他妈妈。一天,他带妈妈去鞋店买鞋。当他妈妈试鞋的时候,我朋友把鞋店经理拉到一旁,偷偷对他说:“只要她挑到了喜欢的鞋,你就告诉她那双鞋要12美元,我会按实际价格付款的。”

过了一周,我朋友经过那家鞋店,鞋店经理认出了他,叫他进去。

“有什么问题吗?”我朋友走进鞋店问道,“是不是我的支票过期了?”

“不是的。”经理回答道,“问题是你妈妈带她所有的朋友都来买12美元一双的鞋。”

注释

[1] purchase *v.* 购买

[2] recognize *v.* 认出

[3] check *n.* 支票

10. Perfect Woman

Bob is almost 30 years old, his friends have already gotten married one after another, and Bob just **dates**^[1] and dates.

Finally a friend asked him, "What's the matter, Bob, are you looking for a perfect woman? Are you that particular? Can't you find anyone who suits you?"

"No," Bob replied. "I met many nice girls, but as soon as I brought them home to meet my parents, my mother didn't like them. So I kept on looking!"

"Listen," his friend suggested, "Why don't you find a girl who's just like your dear mother?"

Several months went by and again Bob and his friend got together.

"So Bob. Did you find the perfect girl yet? One that just like your mother?"

Bob **shrugged**^[2] his shoulders, "Yes, I found one just like Mom. My mother loved her, they became fast friends."

"So are you and this girl engaged?"

"I'm afraid not, my father can't **stand**^[3] her!"

完美女友

鲍勃快三十了,朋友们一个接一个都结婚了,而鲍勃还老是约会,约会。

一个朋友忍不住问:“鲍勃,你怎么回事儿?你是在找一个十全十美的女人吗?你就那么挑剔?连一个合适的都找不到?”

“不是,”鲍勃回答。“我遇到过很多好女孩,但是只要带回家见父母,我妈妈都不喜欢,所以我还在寻觅!”

“听着,”他的朋友建议,“为什么不找一个像你妈妈的?”

几个月后鲍勃和朋友又见面了。

“鲍勃,找到完美女友了吗?像你妈妈那样的?”

鲍勃耸了耸肩,“是的,我找到了一个像我妈的。我妈挺喜欢她,很快她们就成了朋友。”

“你和这个女孩订婚了吗?”

“还没有呢,这个女孩我爸受不了!”

注释

[1] date v. 约会,谈恋爱

[2] shrug v. 耸肩

[3] stand v. 忍耐,忍受


11. The Divorce

John had waited for months to get a divorce and now he was free from his **domineering**^[1] wife.

"Free at last!" he screamed, throwing his divorce papers into the air. "Now, I can eat when I want to, watch television when I want to."

Two months later John was found being escorted to jail by a police officer.

A shocked friend, on seeing poor John hand-cuffed, asked, "John, why are you under arrest?" I thought your troubles were over when you divorced your wife.



“I couldn't pay my **alimony**^[2],” related John sadly.
“Why couldn't you pay your alimony?”
“My ex-wife has custody of the money and my business.”

离 婚

约翰等了好几个月才离婚,现在他终于摆脱了他专横的妻子。

“终于自由了。”他尖叫着,把离婚协议抛到空中,“现在,我想吃就吃,想看电视就看电视。”

两个月后,有人发现约翰被警官带进了监狱。

一个朋友看见可怜的约翰戴着手铐,感到很震惊,问道:“约翰,你为什么被捕了?我以为你和你妻子离婚了就没什么麻烦了。”

“我付不起我的赡养费。”约翰伤心地回答。

“你为什么付不起你的赡养费呢?”

“我前妻掌握着我的财产和生意啊”

注 释

[1] domineering *a.* 专横的

[2] alimony *n.* 赡养费

12. Till the Last Minute

Two sisters kept up a feud for 30 years. On Matilda's 70th birthday, Alice felt pang of remorse, but it passed.

Yet later, when she heard Matilda was ill, she felt compelled to visit her. Matilda looked sternly at her younger sister.

At last she said in a faint voice, “The doctors say I'm seriously ill, Alice. If I pass away, I want you to know you've forgiven. But if I pull through, things stay as they are!”

直至最后一分钟

一对姐妹关系不和长达三十年。在马蒂尔达 70 岁生日时,爱丽丝感到非常后悔,不过这种想法很快就过去了。

后来,当她听到马蒂尔达生病的时候,她觉得应该去看望马蒂尔达。马蒂尔达严肃地盯着她的妹妹。

最后她用微弱的声音说道:“医生说我病得很严重,爱丽丝。如果我离开人世,我想让你知道你已经被原谅了。但是如果我挺过去了,那么我们就还像原来一样。”

13. Men's Club

There were a lot of men's clubs in London a few years ago. Men went there and read their newspapers, quietly, or drank or had meals with their friends.

All of these men's clubs had a lot of very good **servants**^[1]. At every club one of the servants was a doorman. Mr. Grace was the doorman of one of these clubs. He was fifty-five years old, and he had grey hair and a big grey moustache. The telephone rang in his office at six o'clock in the evening, and a woman spoke to him. She said, “Are you the doorman of the George Club?”

“Yes, I am,” Mr. Grace answered.

“Please give my husband a message,” the woman said.

“Your husband isn’t at the club this evening,” Mr. Grace answered.

“But I haven’t told you his name!” the woman said angrily.

“That isn’t necessary,” Mr. Grace answered. “No husband is ever at the club.”

男士俱乐部

几年前,伦敦有很多家男士俱乐部。男士们到那里可以安静地看报纸,喝酒或者和朋友们吃饭。所有这些男士俱乐部都拥有非常好的服务生。每家的服务生之一就是门童。格雷斯先生便是其中之一。他55岁,头发与胡子都已花白。有一天晚上六点钟他办公室的电话响了,有个女人对他说:“您是乔治俱乐部的门童吗?”

“是的。”格雷斯先生答道。

“请给我的丈夫留个言。”这位女士说道。

“您的丈夫今晚不在俱乐部。”格雷斯先生回答说。

“我还没告诉你我丈夫的名字!”女士怒气冲冲地说。

“这没有必要,”格雷斯先生回答,“这家俱乐部根本就没有什么丈夫来过。”

注释

[1] servant *n.* 服务生

14. The Best Time

A prisoner in jail received a letter from his wife: “Dear Husband, I have decided to plant some **lettuce**^[1] in the back garden. When is the best time to plant them?”

The prisoner, knowing that the prison guards read all mail, replied in a letter: “Dear Wife, whatever you do, do not touch the back garden. That is where I hid all the money.”

A week or so later, he received another letter from his wife: “Dear Husband, you wouldn’t believe what happened. Some men came with **shovels**^[2] to the house, and dug up all the back garden.”

The prisoner wrote another letter back: “Dear wife, now is the best time to plant the lettuce.”

最佳时机

一个狱中囚犯接到了妻子的来信:“亲爱的老公,我决定在后花园种一些生菜。你看什么时候种最好?”

这个囚犯知道监狱的看守会看所有的信件,就这样回信道:“亲爱的妻子,无论你干什么,都不要动后花园。我把所有的钱都藏那儿了。”

过了大约一个星期,他收到妻子的另一封信:“亲爱的老公,你不会相信所发生的一切。一帮家伙带着铁铲来到咱们家,把后花园翻了个底儿朝天。”

囚犯又回了一封信:“亲爱的老婆,现在是种生菜的最佳时机了。”

注释

[1] lettuce *n.* 生菜

[2] shovel *n.* 铁锹

15. A Change of Mind

My Dear Susan:

Sweetie of my heart. I've been so **desolate**^[1] ever since I broke off our **engagement**^[2]. Simply **devastated**^[3]. Won't you please consider coming back to me? You hold a place in my heart no other woman can fill. I can never meet another woman quite like you. I need you so much. Won't you **forgive**^[4] me and let us make a new beginning? I love you so much.

Yours always and truly.

P. S. : Congratulations on you winning the state **lottery**^[5].

回心转意

亲爱的苏珊:

我的小甜心。自从我解除与你的婚约后,我一直倍感孤独凄凉,简直是心力交瘁。请你考虑回到我的身边好吗?你在我心目中的地位是任何女人都无法代替的。我再也不会遇到像你这样的女人了。我是多么需要你呀。你能原谅我,让我们重新开始吗?我是多么爱你啊。

始终属于你、忠实于你的。

附注:恭喜你中了州彩票。

注释

[1] desolate *a.* 孤独的,被遗弃的,凄凉的

[2] engagement *n.* 约会,婚约

[3] devastate *v.* 毁坏

[4] forgive *v.* 原谅

[5] lottery *n.* 彩票

16. That Is My Husband

"Did the children behave when you bathed them?" inquired the mistress to the new French nurse, when she returned home from the party.

"All but the biggest boy, and how he fights and kicks before I get him in the water," replied the nurse.

"Which biggest boy? We have only one boy, Freddy, and he's only two years old."

"It is not little Freddy, I mean. It is the big boy with glasses and curly hair."

"Good gracious! That's not my boy, that's my husband."

那是我丈夫

"你给孩子们洗澡的时候他们规矩不规矩?"一位女士从宴会回家后对一名法国护士询问道。

"除了那个最大的男孩,其他表现都很好。在我把他放到水里之前,他又闹又踹。"护士回答道。

“哪个最大的男孩？我们只有一个男孩，弗雷迪，他只有两岁。”

“不是小弗雷迪，我是说那个戴着眼镜卷头发的大男孩。”

“老天，那不是我的孩子，那是我丈夫。”

17. She Is on the Roof

Two brothers, Herbert and James, lived with their mother and a cat named Edgar. James was particularly **attached**^[1] to the cat, and when he had to leave town for several days, he left Herbert meticulous instructions about the pet's care. At the end of his first day away, James telephoned his brother.

“How is Edgar?” he asked.

“Edgar is dead,” Herbert answered.

There was a pause. Then James said: “Herbert, you're insensitive. You know how close I was to Edgar—you should have broken the news to me slowly. When I asked about Edgar tonight, you should have said Edgar's on the roof, but you've called the fire department to get him down. And tomorrow when I called, you could have said the firemen were having trouble getting Edgar down, but you were hopeful they would succeed. Then when I called the third time, you could have told me that the firemen had done their best, but unfortunately Edgar had fallen off the roof and was at the **veterinarian's**^[2]. Then when I called the last time, you could have said that although everything possible had been done for Edgar, he had died. That's the way a sensitive man would have told me about Edgar. And, oh, before I forget,” James added, “How is mother?”

“Uh,” Herbert said, pausing for a moment, “She is on the roof—”

她在屋顶上

赫伯特和詹姆斯兄弟俩和他们的母亲，还有一只叫埃德加的猫住在一起。詹姆斯非常喜欢这只猫，每当他离开城镇一段时间，他就给赫伯特留下细心照顾这只猫的指示。他走之后的第一天晚上，詹姆斯给他的兄弟打了个电话。

“埃德加怎么样？”他问。

“埃德加死了。”赫伯特回答说。

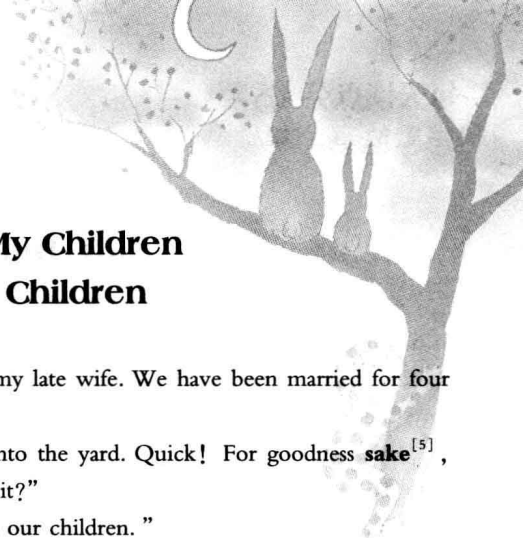
詹姆斯停顿了一下，说，“赫伯特，你太不善解人意了。你知道我和埃德加的关系有多么好，你应该慢慢地告诉我这条惊人的消息。当我今晚问埃德加的时候，你应该说埃德加在屋顶上，但是你已经叫消防队救它下来了。第二天我给你打电话的时候，你应该告诉我消防队员在救埃德加的时候遇到了麻烦，但是你觉得他们有望成功。然后在我第三次给你打电话的时候，你应该告诉我消防员已经尽力，但是不幸的是埃德加还是从屋顶上摔了下来，现在正在兽医那里。当我最后一次打电话的时候，你应该说尽管你们已经尽力了，但是埃德加还是死了。这才是一个顾及别人感情的人应该说的。哦，对了，我刚才忘了问你，”詹姆斯加了一句，“妈妈怎么样了？”

“呃，”赫伯特顿了一下，说，“她在屋顶上……”

注释

[1] **attached a.** 依恋的

[2] **veterinarian n.** 兽医



18. Your Children And My Children Are Whipping^[1] Our Children

I married a **widow**^[2] with six children. I had five myself by my late wife. We have been married for four years and our **union**^[3] had been **blessed**^[4] with three more.

The other day my wife came in hurriedly and said, "Come into the yard. Quick! For goodness **sake**^[5], hurry! There is a terrible **row**^[6] going on." And I said, "What is it?"

"Well," she said "your children and my children are whipping our children."

孩子们在打架

我娶了一个带着六个孩子的寡妇,我本人也有五个和亡妻生育的孩子。我们结婚已经四年,我俩的结合又为这个大家庭带来了三个新的成员。


不久前的一天,妻子匆匆忙忙地进来对我说:“快去院子里看看,看在老天爷的份上,赶紧去吧!院子里正闹得不可开交呢。”我问道:“怎么回事?”

妻子说:“你的孩子和我的孩子正在打咱俩的孩子呢。”



注释

- [1] whip v. 鞭笞,抽打
[2] widow n. 寡妇
[3] union n. 结合,联盟

- [4] bless v. 保佑,祝福
[5] sake n. 理由,缘故,利益
[6] row n. 吵架,争执
- 

19. A Puzzling^[1] Problem

"Well, Sam. I'll tell you how it is. You see, I married a widow, and this widow had a daughter. Then my father, being a widower, married our daughter, so you see my father is my own **son in-law**^[2]."

"Yes, I see."

"Then again my **step-daughter**^[3] is my **step-mother**^[4], isn't she? Well, then, her mother is my grandmother, isn't she? I am married to her, am I? So that makes me my own grandfather, doesn't it?"

难题

“好吧,萨姆,我告诉你事情的来龙去脉。你知道,我娶了一个寡妇,这个寡妇带着个女儿。后来我父亲丧偶后娶了我太太带来的女儿,因此我父亲成了我的女婿。”

“原来是这样,我明白了。”

“于是我的继女实际上又成了我的继母,是这样吧?那么她的母亲就是我的外祖母,对不对?而我和她母亲结了婚,所以我一下变成了我自己的外祖父,是吧?”



注释

- [1] puzzle v. 使迷惑
[2] son-in-law n. 女婿

- [3] step-daughter n. 继女
[4] step-mother n. 继母
- 